

# palmtop

The magazine for handheld  
computers & communicators **USER**

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# EDITORIAL

**W**ith so many emerging technologies that ultimately prove to be more hype than reality, it's heartening to see the appearance of some new arrivals that not only deliver on their promised functionality, but are also catching on at a rate that ensures we'll actually see some benefit from them.

After recently trying out a variety of handhelds incorporating Bluetooth wireless, 802.11b wireless LAN and GPRS 'always on' connectivity, it's obvious that these technologies are going to change the way most of us use our PDAs. Although many users have little need to connect to corporate networks from their handheld computer, these various options combine to help provide us all with the tools we need to print, email, web browse, synchronize and generally stay in touch with the maximum amount of flexibility.

What makes these tools so powerful is the fact that they empower us to do all these things *invisibly*. A few years back we'd have been carrying a mass of boxes and cables in order to connect our PDAs to other bits of equipment. The advent of infrared communications was a small step in the right direction, but still awkward to use. Cables are rapidly becoming a thing of the past, not only for Internet and local network connections, but even when it

## ***Palmtop User is...***

Steve Clack - Publishing Editor

Rosemary Rolfe - Distribution Manager

Christian Hayle - Artwork & Design

Steve Litchfield - Sub-Editor

Pete Sipple - Technical Editor (Symbian/Pocket PC)

Steve Turczyn - Technical Editor (Palm OS)

Anne Johnstone - Senior Contributor

Steve Mann - Development Consultant

Thanks to all the contributors whose names appear within the magazine. Thanks also to all those who have kindly supplied their products for evaluation.

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comes to synchronizing your handheld with a desktop computer.

Hand-in-hand with invisibility comes simplicity. The less we have to connect and configure, the more likely we all are to use the new technologies that are presented to us. By making all this clever science more accessible to the masses, it's far more likely to be a success.

So, let's say goodbye to connecting cables, RS232 port configuration settings and desktop synchronization cradles. As far as I'm concerned, the wireless age can't come too soon.

*Steve Clack - November 2002*



# Handheld News

**What's new in the world of handheld computing**

## Tungsten in at the top...

Announced as we went to press, Palm has launched the Tungsten T, available now, and the wireless Tungsten W, available early next year. The T model is a new high-end handheld with expanding Graffiti area, Palm OS 5 and full multimedia support. Look out for a major in-depth review in the next issue.

[www.palm.com](http://www.palm.com)



## ...and also Sony

Not to be outdone, Sony has launched the \$600 NX70V and the \$500 NX60 (currently available in Japan and North America only), also running Palm OS 5.0, and both with the same clamshell form factor as the previous Sony NR series. The NX70V has a digital camera and will support MPEG-4 video recording and playback.

[www.sonystyle.com](http://www.sonystyle.com)



## Acer raises the bar

Acer has released details of its newest Palm OS devices. The Acer s60 has more audio features than any other current Palm OS model. Both the s50 and s60 have hi-res (320x320 pixel) colour screens, are only 13mm (0.5") thick and weigh 150g (5.3oz). Interestingly, they also include a Sony Memory Stick slot. The s50 includes a removable Lithium Ion battery pack. The s60's pack is not removable but the unit has



extra audio functionality, including voice memo recording, a high quality speaker and MP3 decoding.

[www.acer.com](http://www.acer.com)

## Treo 90 hits Europe

Handspring's version of the Treo 90 handheld for Europe includes full SD I/O functionality, opening the door for adding GPS and Bluetooth receivers, cameras, etc. See page 32 for a full review. A downloadable updater gives similar functions to North American models.

[www.handspring.com](http://www.handspring.com)

## Zire breaks new ground

In an attempt to reach into totally new markets, Palm has released the lightweight Zire m150, with only 2MB of memory and no backlight. The chief attraction is the price, around £89 (including VAT) on the streets. See page 31 for a full review.

[www.palm.com](http://www.palm.com)

## iPAQ H5000 series

Details are leaking out about HP/Compaq's new iPAQ H5000 series, which should appear early in 2003. Up to six different models will include features such as integrated GPS, WLAN and GSM/GPRS/CDMA connectivity. Bluetooth is a certainty, and rumour suggests that some models will come with a biometric fingerprint scanner for increased security.

[www.infosync.no](http://www.infosync.no)

## GPRS Treos

Handspring has made the Treo GPRS Upgrade 1.1 available for most users across the world. In addition to the core GPRS ('always-on Internet') functionality, the upgrade offers automatic network configuration, enhanced SMS messaging and an enhanced Phone application.

[www.handspring.co.uk/support](http://www.handspring.co.uk/support)

## Low cost Sonys (again)

Sony has announced more low cost Clie handhelds, the PEG-SL10, SL20 and SJ30, running Palm OS 4.1, extending high resolution screens to entry level consumers. See pages 27-29 for full reviews.

[www.sonymstyle.com](http://www.sonymstyle.com)

## Series 60 licensees

Matsushita (which sells products under the Panasonic brand name) and Samsung are licensing Nokia's Series 60 platform for their ranges of forthcoming smartphone products. Series 60 is a non-touchscreen interface and set of applications for Symbian smartphones, such as Nokia's own 7650.

[www.mci.panasonic.co.jp/english](http://www.mci.panasonic.co.jp/english)

[www.samsungusa.com](http://www.samsungusa.com)

## Handspring allied with Sprint

Handspring has released the Treo 300 communicator, designed to run in the USA on the Sprint 'PCS Vision' CDMA network. The Treo 300 is largely identical to the 270, reviewed in the

last issue, apart from being able to access the Internet at between 50kbps and 70kbps.

[www.sprint.com](http://www.sprint.com)  
[www.handspring.com](http://www.handspring.com)



## Alias XDA

VoiceStream has announced availability of the T-Mobile Pocket PC Phone Edition in the United States, essentially the same device as the O<sub>2</sub> XDA (see page 39).

[www.voicestream.com/products/devices/pocketpc.asp](http://www.voicestream.com/products/devices/pocketpc.asp)

## Lightest Pocket PC

ASUSTek has launched the MyPal A600 Pocket PC, possibly the world's smallest and lightest, at a mere 140g (4.9oz). ASUS MyPal A600 uses the Intel XScale PXA250 400MHz processor and has 64MB of RAM.

[www.asus.com.tw](http://www.asus.com.tw)

## Meet the e330

Toshiba is shipping the e330 Pocket PC 2002 device, based on the XScale processor running at 300MHz, with 64MB of memory and an SD slot. See the next issue for a full review.

[www.toshiba.com](http://www.toshiba.com)

## Toshiba smartphone available

In the USA, Sprint has started marketing the Toshiba 2032 smartphone, at \$800. Apart from the PCS Vision-enabled wireless voice and data communications capabilities, it's also a standard Pocket PC. The 2032 weighs just under 200g (7oz), has 32MB of RAM and an SD slot.

[www.sprintpcs.com](http://www.sprintpcs.com)



## TextMaker

SoftMaker has unveiled TextMaker (\$70) for Handheld PC (a Pocket PC 2002 version is currently in beta test), claimed to be a desktop-class word processor. It features direct support for desktop formats, unlimited undo/redo, comprehensive formatting, tables, pictures and frames. A full review will appear in the next issue.

[www.softmaker.de](http://www.softmaker.de)

## Psion netBook OS upgrade

A new operating system build is now available for Psion Teklogix's netBook sub-notebook, with improved support for both wired and wireless Ethernet, TCP/IP, ISDN and GPRS. The freely downloadable update also includes version 5 of the Opera web browser.

[www.psionteklogix.com](http://www.psionteklogix.com)



## Pocket PC likes it rough

Intermec Technologies has shipped the 700 Series Color Mobile Computer, designed specifically to take the abuse of industrial, mobile and retail environments. In addition to standard Pocket PC features, it has a camera and up to three wireless communication options (802.11b, GSM/GPRS and Bluetooth).

[www.intermec.com](http://www.intermec.com)

## Art of Musea

NTT DoCoMo is launching a new Pocket PC 2002 PDA, dubbed 'Musea', a name chosen to evoke the image of an art museum and referring to claimed picture quality on its standard-sized screen. The Musea will be the first PDA compatible with DoCoMo's M-stage, a video content distribution service.

[www.nttdocomo.co.jp/english](http://www.nttdocomo.co.jp/english)

## Run everywhere software?

FreEPOC has released a public beta of a cross-platform banking program, written in the Java language. Impressively, Jabp runs on EPOC, Pocket PC,



Jabp: Transactions for MSDW Card				
Date	Desc	Ref	Amount	Categ
02/09/02	Derek's Flowers		-25.00	Birthday r
24/08/02	Poppadums		-80.00	Meals r
21/08/02	Sprouston Manor		-105.00	Holiday:Acco r
21/08/02	Total Convenience St		-28.27	Car:Petrol r
21/08/02	Little Chef		-5.10	Meals r
Balances C: -403.17 T: -403.17 R: -572.19				

Sharp Zaurus, Windows, Linux and Unix, plus most Java-equipped smartphones. You can even exchange your data files seamlessly between different platforms.

[www.freepoc.org](http://www.freepoc.org)

## New Palm Desktop...

Palm has released a new, free version of its staple Desktop for Windows. New for Palm Desktop 4.1 are an expense module, a 'Delete duplicates' function and custom desktop alarms. Although ostensibly only for Palm-branded models, Desktop 4.1 will work with some models from other manufacturers.

[www.palm.com/support/downloads/win\\_desktop.html](http://www.palm.com/support/downloads/win_desktop.html)

## ...and Pocket PC ActiveSync

Microsoft has just released ActiveSync 3.6, an update to its Pocket PC synchronization software. The new version claims improved reliability, faster performance and better compatibility with all Windows versions from 98 onwards.

[www.microsoft.com/mobile](http://www.microsoft.com/mobile)

## Sony invests in PalmSource

Sony Corporation has recently invested \$20 million, equivalent to a six percent share, in PalmSource.

[www.palmsource.com](http://www.palmsource.com)

## Q3 handheld results

Shipments of handheld devices and smartphones reported in Europe in the third quarter of 2002 show a massive 57% market share for Symbian, mainly due to the success of the Nokia 7650. Palm is the second-placed manufacturer, with 15%, with HP/Compaq on 9% and Sony in fourth place on 3%. The results also show that Pocket PC is growing, from 39% of the combined Palm and Pocket PC market to almost 48%.

[www.canalys.com](http://www.canalys.com)

## Email update for i705

Palm has released an i705 Email Upgrade, including an updated version of MultiMail Deluxe, with the ability to display the text of Microsoft Word or HTML email attachments.

[www.palm.com/support/i705/emailupgrade](http://www.palm.com/support/i705/emailupgrade)

## Psion Revo power solutions

By far the commonest cause of battery problems on the Psion Revo range is wear-and-tear damage to the flexible circuit from the battery to the main board. Two companies are now offering specific fixes. D&G Upgrades' fix costs £50 plus VAT and postage, POS Ltd's costs £55 plus VAT and postage.

[www.pda-upgrade.20m.com](http://www.pda-upgrade.20m.com)

[www.posltd.com](http://www.posltd.com)

## GPRS on a Psion

Knowledge Intelligence AG has published an excellent guide to getting your EPOC (ER5) palmtops online using GPRS, something which isn't 'officially' possible. We'll be covering GPRS in depth in the next issue.

[www.ki-ag.de/html/tech/quickfix.html](http://www.ki-ag.de/html/tech/quickfix.html)

## AvantGo Power users

AvantGo is now offering power users of its popular news service the ability to buy extra channel capacity. All users are currently limited to 2MB of information per day, but AvantGo now allows up to 8MB for an annual fee of \$20.

<https://ami.avantgo.com/channels/buy8.html>

## Official Palm OS browser

Palm OS 5 should ship with a web browser based on ACCESS Systems' NetFront technology. It will reportedly include support for XHTML, WML 2.0, CSS 1 and 2, animated GIFs and PNG

files, ECMAScript (Javascript) and J2ME. Significantly, and bucking the handheld trend so far, the browser renders pages as a desktop would, meaning a better design experience but more scrolling.

[www.palmsource.com](http://www.palmsource.com)

## Sony T Stowaway

Sony is rebranding a version of the famous 'Stowaway' folding keyboard for its T series handhelds. The PEGA-KB11 Compact Keyboard is claimed to work with the NR, T, SJ and SL series.

[www.sonymstyle.com](http://www.sonymstyle.com)

## Solar powered computing

Proporta has announced the iSun Solar power adaptor, which can be used to power most common PDAs, emulating a standard 12V car source.

[www.proporta.com](http://www.proporta.com)

## Dissatisfied iPAQ owners unite

A major Internet petition to HP/Compaq has been launched by iPAQ owners, detailing dozens of common faults and bugs. If yours is playing up, you can sign the petition for yourself.

[www.ipaqpetition.com](http://www.ipaqpetition.com)

## HandBase 3.0

DDH Software has launched HandBase 3.0, the latest version of its handheld database application, for both Palm OS and Pocket PC. The new version offers a redesigned interface and peer-to-peer

synchronization of data via infrared or Bluetooth.

[www.ddhsoftware.com/handbase.html](http://www.ddhsoftware.com/handbase.html)

## Case/keyboard combo

tDevice has launched the Q-Pad for the Palm m500 series, combining a leather case and a keyboard. The case is reinforced with steel and the keyboard uses power from the handheld.

[www.tdevice.com](http://www.tdevice.com)

## Palm Entourage conduit

At long last, Microsoft has released a conduit to allow Mac users to HotSync Palm OS devices with Entourage X. The conduit was withdrawn shortly after its initial release due to problems, but a revised version is now available for free download.

[microsoft.com/Mac](http://microsoft.com/Mac)

## Smartphone SDK

Microsoft has released to trusted developers its Smartphone 2002 Software Development Kit (SDK). Microsoft claims that Smartphone devices should be commercially available by the end of this year, which is just as well considering the OS title...

[www.microsoft.com/mobile/smartphone](http://www.microsoft.com/mobile/smartphone)

## The ultimate Navigator?

So far available only for Pocket PCs, TomTom's Navigator is a map-based route planner with a difference. In addition to using on-screen maps and guid-

ance, verbal instructions are available to talk users to their destination. See the next issue for a full review.

[www.palmtop.nl](http://www.palmtop.nl)

## More Palm OS mapping

Digi-Map 2002 is a new GPS-enabled mapping application for Palm OS, with maps available for most of Europe.

[www.hekosoft.de/digimap](http://www.hekosoft.de/digimap)



## Creating PDFs on a Psion

Another first for mBrain Software in the Symbian/Psion world is PdfPrinter, a printer driver which allows the creation of standard Acrobat PDF files on the handheld itself. Almost any program that can print can also now be used to create PDF files. See page 56 for our full review.

[www.mBrainSoftware.com](http://www.mBrainSoftware.com)



## All about voice

Fonix has unveiled VoiceCentral, a hands-free application for Pocket PCs. Using the software, it's claimed that you can navigate your Pocket PC using voice control, with emails, tasks, calendar and contact information, all read out in a "wide range of voices".

[www.fonix.com/products/voicecentral](http://www.fonix.com/products/voicecentral)

## 1 Gigabyte SD

Matsushita Electric (Panasonic) has unveiled a working prototype of a 1GB SD memory card, with a higher speed interface capable of 20MB per second.

[www.matsushita.com](http://www.matsushita.com)

## Mac to Palm the iSync way

Apple has released iSync, which synchronizes address books and calendars between Macintosh computers and Palm OS handhelds (and also with

Apple's iPod and Bluetooth-enabled GPRS mobile phones). It requires Mac OS X version 10.2 (Jaguar).

[www.apple.com/isync](http://www.apple.com/isync)

## Introducing the Toughbook

Panasonic has launched the Toughbook 01, a ruggedised Windows CE 3.0 handheld with built-in thumb keyboard, colour screen and a long list of extra communications options. Durability features include a moisture-resistant casing, sealed connector covers and a drop shock-resistant design.

[www.panasonic.com/computer/notebook/html/01a01.htm](http://www.panasonic.com/computer/notebook/html/01a01.htm)

## Acrobat gains

In addition to finally shipping Acrobat Reader for Palm OS 2.0 (with colour and Macintosh support), Adobe has also displayed a public beta version of

The screenshot shows the Panasonic Toughbook website. At the top is the Panasonic logo. Below it is a navigation bar with links: home, customer support, how to buy, and search. A search bar is also present. The main navigation area includes tabs for TOUGHBOOK MODELS, INDUSTRY APPLICATIONS, and DESIGN FEATURES. Below these are links for SELECT MODEL and CONFIGURATOR. The left sidebar contains a TOUGHBOOK menu with links for SERVICE & SUPPORT, NEWS & EVENTS, COMPANY INFORMATION, PRODUCT REGISTRATION, ACCESSORIES, SITE MAP, and HOME. At the bottom of the sidebar is a link for PURCHASING TOUGHBOOKS. The main content area features the Toughbook 01 product image and the text "TOUGHBOOK 01 CUSTOMIZABLE WIRELESS HANDHELD PC". To the right of the image is a list of features: Lightweight, 1 lb. Design for True Mobility; 3.5" Reflective Color LCD with Touchscreen and Frontlight; Touchscreen and Keyboard Data Entry; and Wireless-ready Design. A "WIRELESS READY" logo is also visible.

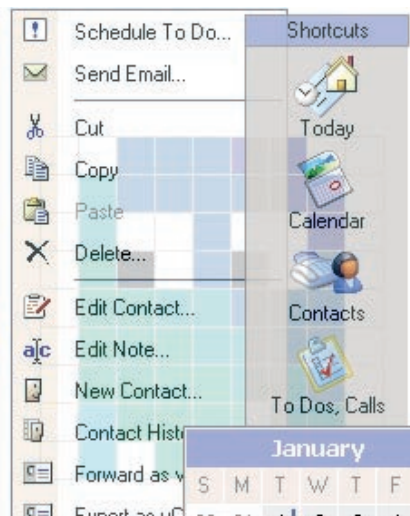
its Acrobat Reader for Symbian OS (for devices such as the Nokia 9200 series).

[www.adobe.com/acrofamily/main.html](http://www.adobe.com/acrofamily/main.html)

## AND now Agendus

iambic has renamed its integrated Date Book/contacts management application again, from Action Names Datebook to Agendus, and released Agendus for Windows, a complete PC companion that claims to improve significantly on both Palm Desktop and Microsoft Outlook by including many contact-related and mapping functions.

[www.iambic.com](http://www.iambic.com)



## iSilo expands again

Previously only available for Palm OS and Pocket PC, the popular iSilo offline content viewer is now available for Windows. This is especially significant as it means there's now a way to browse

previously-created iSilo documents for web sites that no longer exist, effectively recreating the content on the desktop.

[www.isilo.com](http://www.isilo.com)

## New iPAQ sleeve

New from Portable Innovation Technology is the \$80 MemPlug Dual-Slot Expansion Pack for the iPAQ Pocket PC. This brings Memory Stick compatibility to the iPAQ range for the first time, together with CompactFlash support.

[www.pitech.com](http://www.pitech.com)

## Infrared control revisited

Philips has launched a new contender for the Palm OS remote control crown. ProntoLite captures and remembers infrared signal codes from up to 10 of your living room remotes, a system which should ensure compatibility with virtually any multimedia system.

[www.pronto.philips.com](http://www.pronto.philips.com)

## And on the flip side...

Along similar lines to Psion's netBook, the RiscStation Portable is a new sub-notebook, claimed to be downtime and virus-free due to the use of RISC OS as its operating system, stored in flash ROM.

[www.riscstation.co.uk/html/portable.html](http://www.riscstation.co.uk/html/portable.html)

## Introducing the Guyver

RV Tec has launched the Guyver, a clip-on sled that allows a Palm m500 series or Sony Clie handheld to use wired and

wireless Type II PC Cards. The Guyver has its own rechargeable battery to give power to the PC Card.

[www.rvtec.com](http://www.rvtec.com)

## Cutting new titles

Cutting Edge Software has released two new office titles, both designed to enhance its Quickoffice system. Quickpoint is a PowerPoint viewer that integrates with the iGo Pitch VGA presentation system, while Mobilefile is a remote file sharing client in which you can grab and convert documents from your Internet-connected desktop.

[www.cesinc.com](http://www.cesinc.com)

[www.igo.com/mapfiles/pitch.asp](http://www.igo.com/mapfiles/pitch.asp)

## Bluetooth SD revisited

Toshiba has reworked its already diminutive SD Bluetooth card, with a version

that's shorter (9mm/0.35"), uses half the power and is Bluetooth 1.1 compliant.

[www.toshiba.com](http://www.toshiba.com)

## Psion programming for FREE!

EMCC's out-of-print but definitive guide to OPL and C programming for Psion computers has now been released as a free-to-download PDF file.

[www.emccsoft.com/devzone/ppc](http://www.emccsoft.com/devzone/ppc)

## Sendo abandons Microsoft

UK mobile phone company Sendo has just announced that it is to abandon plans for a Microsoft-based smartphone, despite having a device almost ready to ship. Instead, the company plans to base new devices around Nokia's Series 60 operating system, running on top of the Symbian operating system.

[www.sendo.com](http://www.sendo.com)

## Windows CE finds new niche

Strange, but true. Bernina, one of the world's largest and oldest sewing machine companies, has recently launched the Artista 200E, the world's first and only sewing and embroidery system powered by Windows CE. It has a PC-Card slot, a USB port and direct connection to an Internet portal, where sewers can "download embroidery designs, access updated sewing tips and tricks, and navigate through exclusive premium content".

[www.berninausa.com](http://www.berninausa.com)



The advertisement features a Bernina Artista 200E sewing machine with a digital display showing a butterfly design. The text 'Bernina' is prominently displayed in red, and 'artista 200E' is in a stylized font. Below the machine, it says 'Open the window to your world of imagination.' At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with links: 'August 26, 2002', 'Log in', 'Find a Dealer', 'News Room', 'Contact Us', 'Help', and 'Search'. Below this bar are tabs for 'PRODUCTS', 'WHAT'S NEW', 'WHY BERNINA', 'myartista 200', 'SEWING STUDIO', and 'COMMUNITY'. The 'myartista 200' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a paragraph of text: 'myartista 200 Welcome to myartista 200 - a place where your imagination expands and becomes reality. Push your creativity to its limits with sewing and embroidery projects designed exclusively for you and your artista 200/200E. Expand your sewing and embroidery knowledge as you participate in online classes, share ideas and information, explore additional accessories available, ask questions, and find answers about your artista 200/200E. Join us often to explore the exciting world of the artista 200/200E.' There is also a small icon of a person and the text 'Start your journey to a world of possibilities'.





# Palm OS SHORTS



*We take a brief overview of the latest software for your Palm OS handheld or communicator...*

## Use with caution!

In the same way that Windows computers have a registry to hold their settings, preferences and registration information, Palm OS handhelds have two little databases called 'Saved Preferences' and 'Unsaved Preferences'. (Only one of these gets backed up to the desktop, by the way, we'll let you guess which!) The contents of these two databases are hidden well away from casual users, for good reason, but if you know your way around then you'll find the freeware **SysTool** very helpful.



*SysTool—handy for the expert user*

You can browse through either of the main preferences databases, viewing not only a record's creator ID but also the associated application name (in RAM or on expansion card), the record's size and its hexadecimal and ASCII contents. It's certainly very handy when troubleshooting problems or when pruning 'orphan' preferences left behind by long-deleted programs.

[www.herbware.co.uk](http://www.herbware.co.uk)

## The best launcher in town?

You'd be surprised how often the question "How do I remove an application from my Palm" crops up among new handheld owners. The default Palm OS Applications launcher works fairly well for simply starting up programs, but relegates such important functions as 'Delete' and 'Category' to mere menu items, and makes a real mess of moving applications to expansion card.

**SilverScreen** (\$25) improves on the default launcher in every respect. There's an (optional) set of category 'tabs', onto which you can drag application icons to move them into different categories. Also optional, and just as useful, is a



*SilverScreen—a handsome program launcher*

'Tools' panel, with icon buttons onto which you can drag application icons for direct action. The 'Category' icon also handles moving applications onto an expansion card.

We liked the 'Quicksilver' icon in the top-right of the display, which pops up a list of recently-used (and favourite) applications. And, of course, SilverScreen supports some seriously attractive 'themes', with which you can completely customise its interface. The latest version supports all the colour and hi-resolution screens of modern Palm OS handhelds.

[www.pocketsensei.com](http://www.pocketsensei.com)

## Let the children play

Ever wanted to let your children play games safely on your handheld without risking your vital data and documents? **Kid Zone** (\$8), as it sounds, is a self-contained application zone on your Palm OS unit, set up with just the applications you specify (usually games and painting utilities), which then



*Keeping the kids happy with Kid Zone*

appear in the Kid Zone launcher. The hardware buttons are all locked back to the launcher, except where needed by the games themselves. A password-protected 'Login' menu command provides the only route out of Kid Zone, a system which works wonderfully well.

[www.beiks.com](http://www.beiks.com)

## TV addicts

These days, where dozens of TV channels are the norm rather than the exception, it gets increasingly hard to keep track of what's on when. Putting **TV Grid** (\$10) on your Palm OS handheld should help somewhat, with an attractive, scrollable channel grid. Listings for common US channels can be imported directly into TV Grid, otherwise you'll have to enter your favourite programs by hand.

It's quite configurable in terms of channel setup and on-screen presentation, but is let down by a number of omissions. For starters, there's no alarm support, without which you're still likely

TV Grid [Wed] [ 8p ] [ - All - ] (New)			
	8:00p	8:30p	9:00p 9:30p
3 ABC	My Wife	George Lopez	The Bachelor
4 NBC	Ed		The West Wing
5 WB	Dawson's Creek		Birds of Prey
11 FOX	The Bernie	Cedric the Ent	Fastlane
12 CBS	60 Minutes II		The Amazing Race
44 UPN	Enterprise		The Twilight Zone

My Wife and Kids

### Keeping track of your favourite TV programs

to miss your favourite programs. Setting up new slots is also a bit fussy—you can't just tap on the grid, unfortunately.

[www.silcom.com/~nhua/cal](http://www.silcom.com/~nhua/cal)

## Taking their leave

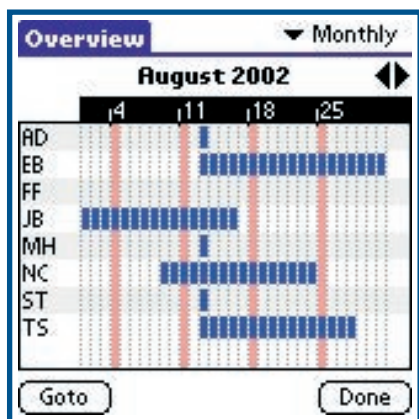
**Acapulco** (\$15), from Interact2000, is a vacation manager, not just for yourself but for your employees. You can grant

amounts of vacation to each individual and then track how much they're taking and when. There are monthly and yearly overviews within Acapulco's heavily dialog-based interface, with options to output reports in plain text or (beamed) XML format.

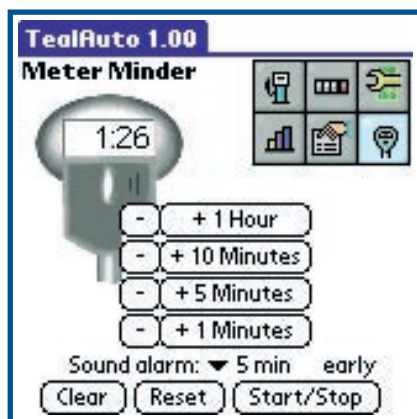
[www.interact2000.com.br](http://www.interact2000.com.br)

## A one-stop auto solution

How many times in handheld history have people reinvented the wheel by building the same spreadsheets for tracking fuel economy and keeping track of motoring expenses? A small outlay on something like **TealAuto** (\$17) would save a lot of time in the long run, as everything's done for you. You can use it for all your family or business vehicles and it'll tell you how efficient they are (with both numbers and graphs), it'll remind you of upcoming service events and there's even a cute little parking meter calculator aid. Particularly impressive are the range of possible reports



Keep track of your holidays in Acapulco



TealAuto—the easy solution for motorists



*Getting serious with TealLock Corporate Edition*



*MyBible offers six different translations*

on your motoring activities, in text, CSV, DOC or Memo Pad formats.

[www.tealpoint.com](http://www.tealpoint.com)

## Business security

Always a popular choice for securing individual Palm OS handhelds, **TealLock** has matured further with its new **TealLock Corporate Edition**. This adds a number of enhancements over the already tight security in the standalone version, including the customised encryption of sensitive data, blocking of the infrared port, password lockout after too many failed attempts, and data self-destruction if needed. Company IT administrators can install specific TealLock settings on every handheld and, if necessary in an emergency, unlock a device remotely. The Corporate Edition also allows you to put a company logo on its lock screen. Site licenses start at \$22 per handheld.

[www.tealpoint.com](http://www.tealpoint.com)

## The Bible done well

Laridian have been involved with putting the Bible on computer for many years and it shows. Their **MyBible** system now impresses in every department, from the degree of compression achieved (only 1.4MB for the entire New King James version) to the speed of navigation (via pop-up panels and direct writing of chapter and verse) to the excellent concordance-like 'Find' function.

Six different translations are available, with the popular New International Version (NIV) costing \$30 to download. MyBible itself is \$10.

[www.laridian.com/palm](http://www.laridian.com/palm)



A roundup of the latest software releases for your Nokia communicator or Psion handheld...

## Do it today!

**TasMan** is a freeware utility for any Psion owner who likes to have their tasks held within Agenda but who doesn't like the way they are displayed and managed. It offers an alternative view, showing by default only those tasks that are either due today or whose due date has already passed. Tasks can be sorted and filtered (by text string), with all changes mirrored between TasMan and Agenda itself.

[www.psionfile.co.uk](http://www.psionfile.co.uk)

## Document to go

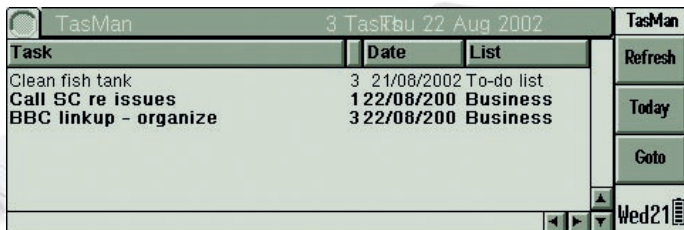
The simple **OpenDoc**, also freeware, allows you to assign a document to the Psion's Extras bar (or to the user definable icons on the Series 7/netBook). The first time OpenDoc is run, it asks you

to point towards a specific document. Thereafter, this document can be opened directly from the Extras bar. The catch is that to change the document assignment, you'll need to be experienced enough to delve into the System folder and delete OpenDoc's settings file.

[www.psionfile.co.uk](http://www.psionfile.co.uk)

## All purpose database tool

It's an unwritten rule of computing that the more functionality is packed into a program, the harder it's likely to be to use, especially when it's data-base-related. The freeware **PsiDat** fits the pattern perfectly, being just about the ultimate database tool for Psion palmtops: it can open, import and export virtually everything, but you definitely have to know what you're doing.



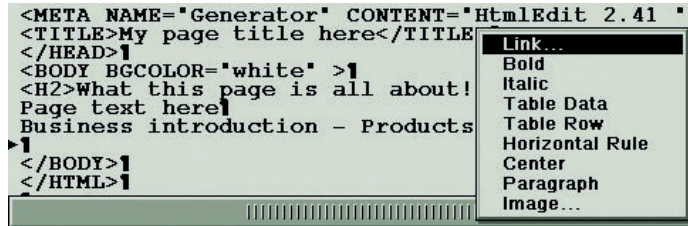
## An alternative view of your To Do items, with TasMan



Customer	Customer	Abogus Company Ltd
Abogus Company	Order No	0001
Abogus Company	Date	06/10/2001
Abogus Company	Item	Null Modem Adapter (9 Pin)
Someother Trading	Quantity	2
Someother Trading	Unit Price	9.95
Someother Trading	Sub Total	19.90
Someother Trading	Comments	This database demonstrates a number of PsiDat features and can be used as the basis of a system to generate sales

Most definitely not for the novice, PsiDat offers powerful database functionality

Edit your HTML web pages in HtmlEdit!



Thankfully, there's some excellent help text and documentation provided, plus a number of examples.

One use for PsiDat might be to make it the definitive reference to all your company's products, with the program exporting sets of HTML pages (complete with image codes) that could be uploaded as-is within a framed web site.

[www.millican.info/Home/PsiDat.htm](http://www.millican.info/Home/PsiDat.htm)

## More web site help...

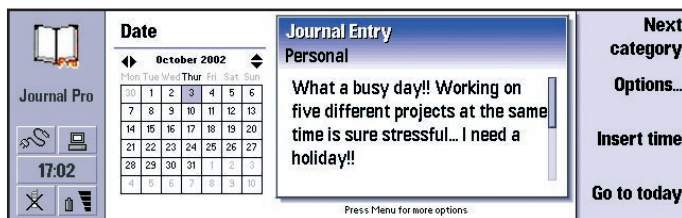
Now that there are several mature FTP clients for the Psion EPOC operating system (for example, see [www.neuon.com](http://www.neuon.com)), serious applications to aid maintenance of your web site's HTML pages can be a big time saver. The most recently updated is **HtmlEdit** (yet again, freeware), which is a file-by-file text editor with built-in tag libraries and utilities. Provided you know your HTML, this is a quick way to get pages up and

running on a Psion. The only other fly in the ointment is the patchy integration with the Web and Opera browsers.

[home.c2i.net/trygveh/english/download/epoc.html](http://home.c2i.net/trygveh/english/download/epoc.html)

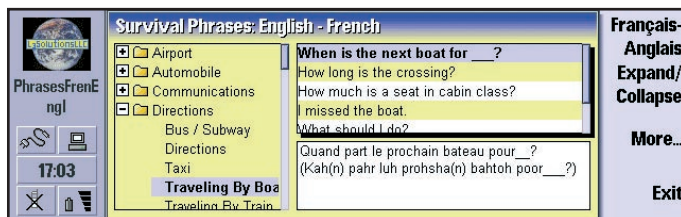
## Keeping a diary

Tempting though it might be, it's just impractical to keep a daily diary within the Nokia 9210's Calendar, which is designed around short text entries with potentially complicated scheduling. Far better to use a dedicated tool such as **Journal Pro** (\$13), which offers a delightfully simple, if slightly cramped interface. You choose the day to view or edit and away you go. There are options to allocate categories to journal entries and a password to your journal as a whole. Incidentally, Journal Pro, like a few other Nokia applications, needs the AppForge Booster, a common collection of functional modules. You really have



Keeping a personal journal on the Nokia 9210 with Journal Pro

400 useful English-French phrases in 14 categories



to want the application, as downloading and installing the Booster takes a while, and tests the patience, not to mention a loading wait of around six seconds when starting the hosted application each time.

[www.dsrtch.net](http://www.dsrtch.net)

## Où est la gare?

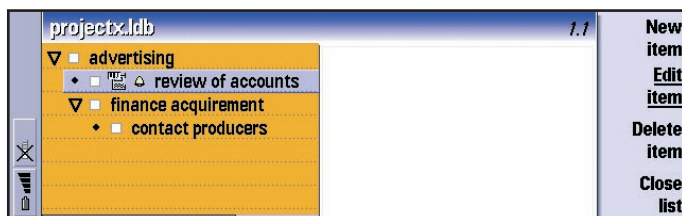
The title of **Survival Phrases English-French** rather gives its purpose away, and in truth this collection of around 400 phrases in 14 categories and 60 sub-categories could easily be distributed as a simple database. Whether it's worth \$20 will depend on whether you need such extra features as being able

to switch the language direction and to edit (and add) your own categories and entries. The interface is intuitive enough, with categories neatly expanding and collapsing, although there's no menu support (all functions are cascaded onto banks of command buttons). Survival Phrases is built on top of the AppForge Booster (mentioned above), with its slight inherent memory and speed penalties.

[www.L3Solutions.com](http://www.L3Solutions.com)

## Getting organised

When organising a project for home or business, it's all very well setting up new task lists in the Nokia 9210's



At last a good outline for the Nokia—myList Pro

Calendar, but anything more than a trivial assignment really needs a better tool. Enter Ximplify's **myList Pro** (\$30) essentially an 'outliner', in that items can be nested within a hierarchy—i.e. each item can have other items within it, each of which can itself have items within, etc. Add in the ability to attach alarms, files and links to any item, and you have the makings of a very powerful organisational tool indeed. MyList Pro is professionally written and easy to use. A 'Lite' version is also available, at \$18.

[www.ximplify.com](http://www.ximplify.com)

## Taking control

**SeleQ** (\$18) is one of those utilities without which your Nokia 7650 will seem rather bare. It gives you access to the raw files and folders on your device, from where you can reorganise things, tidy up your filing system or beam specific files to others. Viewers let

you see the contents of image files and hear music files. There's also automatic keypad locking, a screenshot facility, and tools to manage your memory.

[www.ximplify.com](http://www.ximplify.com)

## Safe and sound

What would happen if a thief ran off with your Nokia 7650, complete with all your passwords, bank account details and other day-to-day personal information? If this seems too awful to contemplate, you'll appreciate **Handy Safe** (\$20), pitched as the "perfect assistant for secure and convenient managing of all your important information in one place". Simply remembering the master password makes sure that everything else is not far away, but secure from prying eyes. A Windows companion application means that your secrets are viewable on both smartphone and desktop.

[www.epocware.com](http://www.epocware.com)



*SeleQ—some essential tools for the 7650*



*Handy Safe gives you a little peace of mind*



# Pocket PC SHORTS



*Some of the most interesting new software additions for your Pocket PC handheld or communicator...*

## Raiding the tomes

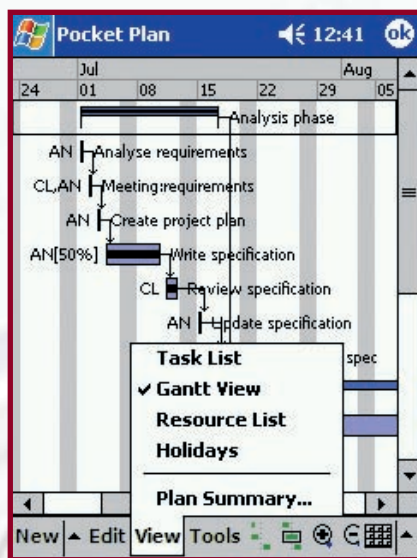
A long standing favourite amongst Psion/Symbian and Palm OS users, Proporta's **TomeRaider** for Pocket PC (£15) is an all-purpose reference viewer that can read any suitably formatted documents. It can even be used as an ebook reader, though it's best suited to searching through large

reference works such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias and the like, hundreds of which are freely downloadable from [www.memoware.com](http://www.memoware.com). It's just had a major update, with the new version 2.5 offering a vastly improved user interface and major speed improvements.

[www.proporta.com](http://www.proporta.com)



*TomeRaider gets a sleek new interface*



*Pocket PC project planning—Psion style*

## Making a plan

Another title that started life on Psions, Twiddlebit Software's **Pocket Plan** (\$30) is almost identical to Plan5 for Psion and Plan6 for the Nokia 9210, with most of the functionality of a desktop project planner, complete with Gantt charts and full resource allocation, dependencies and holiday scheduling.

[www.twiddlebit.com](http://www.twiddlebit.com)

## Something on the side

**SideX** describes itself as an "applet platform". The main program is free, and you buy applet plug-ins to enhance its functionality. Essentially, it's a toolbar that hides itself off-screen, sliding out in front of your current application with a quick tap on its little tab. Applets so far include System watcher: (battery and

memory indicator, task manager and volume/brightness adjuster), CalcPack: (calculator, unit and currency convertor, tax and tip calculator), and QuickPack: (quick calculator, calendar, clock and biorhythm calculator).

[www.mtux.com](http://www.mtux.com)

## Top tools

Lots of useful tools for the price of one, the main function of **Battery Pack 2002** (\$5) is as a plug-in for the Today view, adding a display for battery and memory status (including expansion pack battery and plug-in memory cards), backlight brightness readout and control, plus a customisable multi-line program bar for fast access to any or all of your favourite applications. The status display is especially useful, as it shows estimated remaining battery life in hours and



*SideX offers a neat way to add functionality*



*Lots of handy tools—Battery Pack 2002*



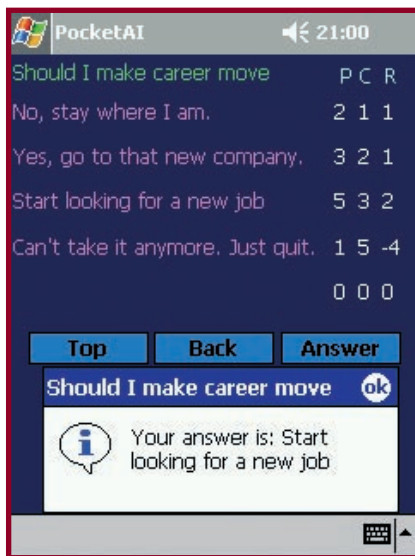
minutes, something most of the other status applications don't—it's also a little under 50K in size, so doesn't swallow too much precious memory. If you live in the 'Today' view, you'll love this.

Rounding off this bargain suite is Flash-light, a simple application that allows the backlight to become a bright white beacon, or a flashing red 'distress' light, as the need arises.

[www.omegaone.com](http://www.omegaone.com)

## Make your mind up

Do you have a problem making decisions? At first glance, this is something of a frivolous addition to your Pocket PC—an application that tells you what to do. In fact, the recently released version 2 of **PocketAI Digital Mind Assistant** (\$20) is both useful and interesting.



*Some digital assistance with your decisions*

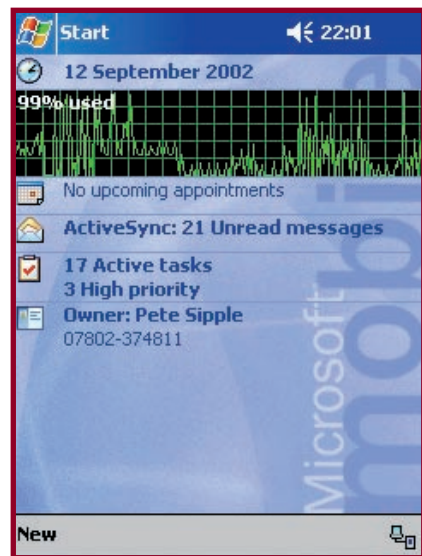
Type in a question and all the possible outcomes, then follow the wizard as it forces you to weight your answers in questionnaire format. Using boolean and fuzzy logic, it's difficult to describe how it actually works, so the best advice is to try it out for yourself!

[www.3dnetproductions.com](http://www.3dnetproductions.com)

## Busy busy busy

The Pocket PC software world is awash with Today add-ons. **RhinoStats CPU Monitor** (\$6) offers something a little different—a graphical representation of how hard your handheld's processor is working. Its overall value is fairly limited, but it can help to track how your resources are getting used, and it's fully customisable.

[www.rhinocode.com](http://www.rhinocode.com)



*Keeping an eye on processor usage*



*Recover lost space with Pocket CleanUp*

## Keep it clean

Through daily use, your Pocket PC slowly fills up with unused temporary files, cookies and Internet-related files. The new **Pocket CleanUp** (\$10) can help to remove this unwanted clutter. A word of warning—the demo version neither removes the ‘dirty’ files, nor tells you what they are. Results on our test machine showed that almost half a megabyte could easily be recovered, but you’ll need to purchase the full product before you can actually recover the space.

[www.pocketmindsoft.com](http://www.pocketmindsoft.com)

## Movies on the move

If you’re an avid movie buff, you might want to consider logging your DVD and video collection on your Pocket PC.



*Keep track of your video and DVD collections*

The latest version of **Movies CE**, v1.4 (\$20), lets you add a stack of information about each film you own, including DVD region, who you’ve loaned it to, date last watched, year, duration, cast, format, your own notes, and scans of the movie jacket. The demo version allows browsing and searching only (no adding or editing) of 30 movies. The purchase price gets you a fully working copy with more than 330 top movie titles and jackets. The program provides a very smart way of presenting your film collection, although if your films aren’t in the supplied database, adding each one’s information could become a full-time project.

[www.pennetier.com](http://www.pennetier.com)

# A CLOSER LOOK

REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

## Star Ratings:

★★★★★	Excellent
★★★★☆	Good
★★★☆☆	Average
★★☆☆☆	Fair
★☆☆☆☆	Poor
☆☆☆☆☆	Dismal

## Interpreting reviews

**Quality:** the Quality star rating reflects how well the product works, whether it includes all the features you'd expect, whether the interface is consistent and easy to use, and in data-based products also reflects the quality of the information contained in the program.

**Value:** the Value star rating reflects the value for money of the product, taken within the context of what the program (or other product) does. Therefore a simple utility program will be rated differently to a sophisticated application at the same price.

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AlphaSmart Dana .....	35
O <sub>2</sub> XDA .....	41
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## Sony Clié PEG-SJ30

Nowadays, it seems that no sooner has Sony released a new Palm OS handheld that something even more enticing is waiting in the wings, poised for release only a few months later.

In terms of basic specifications, the new Clié PEG-SJ30 is almost identical to Sony's flagship model of six months ago, the PEG-T625C, and its identical North American cousin, the T615C. With standard-issue 33MHz Dragonball processor, 16MB of memory, Memory Stick expansion slot and 16,000 colour screen it all sounds rather unremarkable, but the PEG-SJ30 is designed as an entry-level colour PDA. Pitched as exactly that, it blows the existing competition out of the water.

When first picking up the SJ30, the first thing you'll notice is the delightful 'chunkiness' of it. At 104x72x17mm (4.1x2.9x0.7") it's notably shorter than the average Palm OS PDA, and thicker



than most. Unlike Palm's ageing low-end m100 series, there's no compromise on screen size here, with a fabulously sharp 320x320 colour display which appears to use the same display technology as the top-of-the-range NR70 series. Bright and crystal clear, it is a pleasure to behold, and surpassed only by the transreflective TFT screen of the new Compaq iPAQ 3900 series.

Construction is up to Sony's usual standard throughout, with a sturdy brushed aluminium casing and a stylish removable suede leather flip-up screen cover. Sony's useful Jog Dial is in its usual position near the top left edge of the device, together with the a 'Back' button to undo your last action in most applications. The SJ30 uses Sony's (thankfully) now standard HotSync connector, so any peripherals designed for recent Sony models should also fit the SJ30.

Rather than the more traditional USB HotSync cradle, the SJ30 is supplied with a plug-in cable arrangement which, though obviously done as a cost-saving measure, is almost as convenient on the desktop and preferable when travelling, as it's less bulky.

The one small criticism of the SJ30 is the malaise that's all too common with Sony Cliés—the overly small up/down scroll button. Even for those with small fingers, this is just too tiny and too recessed into the casing to be comfortable to use. Although the Jog Dial largely takes the place of this control for most applications, frequent game players will find it unacceptable.





Book, Address Book, To Do List and Memo Pad, plus a basic calculator and email client. The usual Sony add-ins include Documents To Go Standard Edition to provide basic word processing and spreadsheet functionality, the PG Pocket image viewer, an excellent world time alarm clock, Clie Paint, and a variety of utilities to manage and exchange files stored on the optional Memory Stick card, currently available in sizes up to 128MB.

Despite being positioned as a 'basic' organiser, the SJ30 has much to appeal to both personal and business users. It's compact enough to fit in almost any pocket (it's even short enough to fit sideways in most), slick enough to impress the most fashion-conscious teenager, but with an understated elegance and obvious pedigree that makes it look equally at home in a board room.

Aside from that infuriating little scroll button, there's really nothing to dislike about the Sony SJ30, and at a very reasonable £200, it's the perfect PDA for the masses.

*Steve Clack*

Although powered by a Lithium-ion rechargeable battery, Sony has thoughtfully provided access to this by a screwed-down hatch at the back of the device. Though it's uncommon to have to replace the battery pack, this feature means that it's now a one minute job for the user, rather than requiring the handheld to be returned to a service centre to exchange a sealed unit. Sound thinking.

Built-in software in the SJ30 is the standard Palm OS 4.1 suite, with Date

### Sony Clie PEG-SJ30

**From:** All major Sony dealers

**Contact:** [www.sonymstyle.com](http://www.sonymstyle.com)

**Price:** £198 inc. VAT

**Quality:** ★★★★★

**Value:** ★★★★★



## Sony Clié PEG-SL10

An almost identical package to the SJ30, Sony's PEG-SL10 substitutes the colour screen of the SJ30 with a 320x320 monochrome version, and the SJ30's 16MB of memory with a more modest 8MB. Powered by a pair of standard AAA batteries rather than a rechargeable battery pack, the SL10 is for those who'd like something even more budget-priced.

Sporting a brushed titanium-style finish with matt black front fascia, the SL10 is certainly handsome, and at only £100 it's excellent value. The only problem is that with colour screens as good as those on modern PDAs such as the SJ30, it's hard to get really enthusiastic about *anything* with a comparatively hard-to-read monochrome display. Although in daylight the SL10 screen appears as blue/black on a white-ish background, in dim lighting the backlight becomes mandatory, revealing the familiar green and black combination with the resulting mediocre contrast level.

If you're happy with a monochrome screen then the SL10's is probably no better or worse than the rest, but many users will be prepared to pay twice the price for the fabulously bright SJ30's colour screen, if only for the sake of their eyesight.

If you're happy with a mono screen, the SL10 offers a good specification and expandability at a great price.

An additional North American variant, the SJ20, is also available. This is the same as the SL10, apart from having 16MB of memory rather than 8MB and



an internal rechargeable battery, for approximately \$50 extra.

Steve Clack

## Sony Clié PEG-SL10

**From:** All major Sony dealers

**Contact:** [www.sonystyle.com](http://www.sonystyle.com)

**Price:** £100 inc. VAT

Quality: ★★★★★☆

Value: ★★★★★★

## Sony Clié PEG-T675C

There's nothing in the T675C (and the US equivalent, the T665C) that hasn't previously been seen in at least one earlier Sony model, but the combination makes for an impressively-specified machine that's a pleasure to use.

Based firmly on the earlier T625/T615 model, the T675 adds an NR70-style 66MHz processor in place of the conventional 33MHz offering, an MP3 player, and the super-bright frontlit screen style as used in the NR70 and the new SJ30.

All the standard features of the Sony marque are present: sturdy aluminium casing, Jog Dial for navigation, Sony's now-standard HotSync connector, and enhanced audio output via a 'real' (albeit small) loudspeaker rather than a piezo-electric buzzer.

The T675 is supplied with a dark grey clip-on leather flap to protect the screen,

similar to that on the T625. The HotSync cradle is virtually identical to the earlier model, but in matching silver-grey rather than black.

The 66MHz processor certainly gives the T675 a particularly snappy feel, which in combination with the exceptional screen quality makes this one of the most desirable Palm OS handhelds to date, particularly for those who are uncomfortable with the extra bulk of the two-piece design of the flagship NR70 model.

Bundled software is as per the SJ30 model (see page 27), with the addition of the necessary MP3/ATRAC audio playback software built into ROM.

An 'earbud' headset is provided as standard. This provides reasonable sound quality, but anyone serious about listening to music with the T675 will want to spend at least £10-20 on a pair of headphones that will really do justice to the Sony's sound quality potential.

If you don't need the music playback facility of the T675 then it's worth considering the SJ30 instead, which for £150 less lacks only the faster processor. Otherwise, the T675 is a superb handheld at a fair price.

*Steve Clack*



## Sony Clié PEG-T675C

**From:** All major Sony dealers

**Contact:** [www.sonymstyle.com](http://www.sonymstyle.com)

**Price:** £350 inc. VAT

**Quality:** ★★★★★

**Value:** ★★★★★

## Palm Zire m150

The Zire's price point turns out to be the whole point of the unit. In between cheap proprietary organisers and the world of genuine handheld computing there's a yawning gap, and one which the Zire is designed to fill, whilst staying largely compatible with its more expensive brethren.

Building down to a price means no backlight, only two application buttons (for Date Book and Address Book), no



Universal Connector, 2MB of RAM and an old 16MHz processor. And plastic *everything*. The only expensive component is the Lithium-Ion battery, simplifying the powering process for new users. It's pretty small, too, and weighs only 106g (3.7oz).

At the top of the Zire are a mini-USB connector (a data/charging cable is supplied to plug into a desktop), an extra (and rather redundant) DC power socket, and an infrared port. Palm also supplies a quite horrible rubber protective flap that slides into a groove on the Zire's rear, but given the plastic screen, construction quality and unit replacement price, most owners will just drop the Zire into their bags as-is.

The Zire is fine for those who've never previously used or been able to afford a handheld, and most people can probably think of half a dozen friends or relatives who could benefit from one. The only problem is that the price (£89) is still a bit too high, with the Sony SL10 (see page 29) offering four times the memory, double the processor speed, Memory Stick expansion, backlight, Jog Dial, hi-res screen and extra software, all for around £10 more.

Steve Litchfield

## Palm Zire m150

**From:** All major Palm dealers

**Contact:** [www.palm.com](http://www.palm.com)

**Price:** £89 inc. VAT

Quality: ★★☆☆☆☆

Value: ★★☆☆☆☆



## Handspring Treo 90

The Treo 90, here at last in a UK edition, is a mixed bag at first glance. Yes, it's a Handspring Treo, but there's no built-in mobile phone. Yes, there's a keyboard, but it's not backlit and is unusable in poor light. No, there isn't a Handspring Springboard slot, but there's a Palm-like SD/MMC slot instead. Yes, it's a Treo, but the flip cover doesn't power the machine on and off—and there's no jog dial. You get the idea.

Once you get past comparisons with other Handspring and competitor devices, the Treo 90 starts to make more sense. It's small (108x71x16mm/4.3x2.8x0.6"), light (110g/4oz) and relatively capacious, with 16MB of internal memory and room for plenty more on SD or MMC card. Handspring has used Palm OS 4.1 for the Treo 90, probably because it simplified the task of implementing the SD expansion slot. As usual,

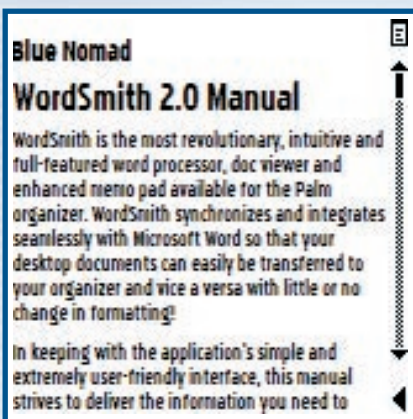
there's no advertised flash memory for installing OS updates, though you never can tell with Handspring. And the company does have a good track record of releasing small 'updaters' where necessary, so lack of OS upgradeability shouldn't be a problem.

Most elements of the Treo 90 have been seen before: the keyboard and the transparent flip cover on the Treo communicators, of course, although the lack of backlighting of the keys in the 90 makes work almost impossible in poor lighting conditions. The few niggles about the Handspring keyboard remain, such as needing two keypresses to get to the Applications screen and the confusing ListType system for generating specialist characters (you try to guess where "&" is). These apart, the keyboard works well (this review was drafted on the Treo) and is significantly quicker than Graffiti for most of the time, although it does require an extra degree of concentration and dexterity, and you do have to look down at the Treo all the time you're typing.

The hardware buttons at the bottom of the 90 are mapped traditionally to the four main Palm OS PIM applications, with 'Prefs' being the place to make changes. As with the Treo 270, you'll need the freeware Buttons-T utility ([www.mindgear.com](http://www.mindgear.com)) if you want to change the Option-key button assignments.

There are a few unfortunate omissions (compared to the Treo 270), such as the ability to acknowledge alarms with a press of the Scroll Up button. One new feature is that holding the power button down for a couple of seconds locks





*The excellent WordSmith word processor is a welcome addition to the Treo 90 package*

out the hardware buttons, should you be worried about accidental activation while carrying the unit.

The lightweight flip cover is smoothly styled to blend in with the Treo 90's curves and finish. At the top of the unit is the SD slot, now fully compatible with non-memory accessories, such as Bluetooth cards. The slot is styled beautifully into the large infrared window.

The small, 12-bit colour screen is the same as that in the Treo 270 (and almost identical to that in the Palm m130), with the same characteristics—great indoors, but passable at best outdoors, in sunlight.

As with the others in the range, the Treo 90 comes with just a USB HotSync and recharge cable, but this is a lot more

compact than a cradle and better suits the concept of working on the move. A selection of international power adapters is included in the box.

Office software is starting to trickle into the Handspring line at last, with the Treo 90 being bundled with the top-rated WordSmith word processor. Also included is the usual comprehensive Handspring bundle of DateBook+, CityTime, the Blazer web browser, Palm's SMS client and One-Touch Mail. Apart from a spreadsheet, there's really nothing obvious that a purchaser might need to add.

The tiny form factor and keyboard combination are probably the biggest selling points of the Treo 90. It's more expensive than its nearest rival, the Sony SJ30, but if you feel you'd prefer a keyboard and SD slot to Graffiti and Memory Stick expansion, then the Treo 90 is well worth shortlisting.

*Steve Litchfield*

## Handspring Treo 90

**From:** All major Handspring dealers

**Contact:** [www.handspring.com](http://www.handspring.com)

**Price:** £250 inc. VAT

**Quality:** ★★★★★☆

**Value:** ★★★★★☆



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## AlphaSmart Dana

Adding the advantages of instant-on applications and a fast virus-free OS to a large screen and keyboard is something that many have talked about for years. Psion went part of the way with its excellent Series 7 and netBook. AlphaSmart has added another couple of constraints: low cost and highly robust construction, required by their stated market, schools. The result is the Dana. Although at 31x23cm (12.2"x9.1") and 900g (32oz) it's far from palm-sized, it has a number of attractions, particularly for existing Palm OS handheld users.

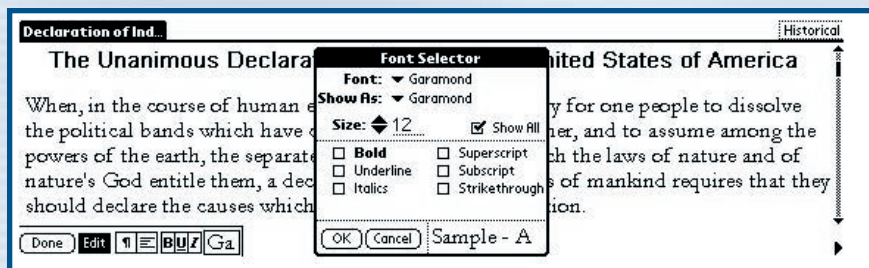
The Dana's size means of course that a full-sized keyboard with proper key travel is possible. It looks and feels great, and there's no reason why full desktop typing speeds cannot be achieved.

There are a number of strange key assignments and redundancies, presumably caused by reusing the same keytops and layout as their earlier AlphaSmart 3000 in order to cut development costs. For example, there's a 'Ctrl' key that is only used for a few obscure functions in the word processor, with 'Fn' also labelled as 'alt' and 'option', and 'cmd' sitting next to both of them. Considering the educational bent of the Dana, the key use and labelling could have been a lot better. Another oddity is that the 'Cancel' function is achieved with a 'Function' key press, with an on/off key sitting where you'd expect to find 'Esc', which in turn finds itself on the right of the spacebar. There isn't a '£' sign, perhaps not surprising as the test unit was from the USA, though other language variants are apparently expected early in 2003.





*The Dana Application screen, showing the configurable 'WritePad' Graffiti area to the right*



*Word processing in full-screen mode, with AlphaWord*

The screen is quite impressive, at 560x160 pixels and over 19cm (7.5") wide. There's even a 'proper' (i.e. non-reversed) backlight, with the background lighting up tastefully in green. It's monochrome/greyscale only, of course—with schools expected to buy large numbers of Danas at a time, keeping the unit cost down is obviously of prime importance.

The Dana's chassis is blue-black polycarbonate ABS and feels very rigid. AlphaSmart claims it can be dropped from 1.2m (4') without ill effect. The touch-sensitive screen is also made

of tough plastic (I let my two year old daughter loose on it), which is just as well, given that a child's preferred method of carrying the Dana will be to grip the thicker top section, with a thumb pressed on the screen's centre.

On the Dana's top are two standard SD expansion slots, which will come in very handy for loading reference software in the classroom, although of course applications will need to be customised



to fill the larger screen. Backup and restore operations are also easy to accomplish this way, and I used the standard Palm SD Backup card with no problems.

Also on the top are the standard infrared port, a USB HotSync client connector (to a host PC or Macintosh), a power connector (a mains adaptor is supplied in the box) and a USB port for attaching a printer—around a dozen standards/emulations are supported by the bundled PrintBoy software.

A stylus is housed somewhat loosely in a slot on the right hand side, with stylus wells either side of the screen. When resting in the well, the prototype's stylus sticks up rather dangerously, though AlphaSmart is aware of the issue and making changes for release units.

Under the hood, the Dana is a fairly standard 8MB Palm OS 4.1 computer. The ROM has been extended to include PrintBoy (mentioned above) and AlphaWord. This is a slightly simplified version of the market-leading WordSmith word processor. For example, 'Word Count' is made a lot more obvious, there are menu commands for 'Print', 'Thesaurus' and 'Check Spelling' (using SpellSmith), and the complexity of



*To Do List in portrait mode*

display fonts and anti-aliasing (which wouldn't work on the monochrome screen anyway) has been removed. The keyboard's otherwise redundant F1-F8 function keys are used to good effect in AlphaWord, each being mapped to a specific document being worked on.

AlphaWord and Date Book, Address Book, To Do List and Memo Pad are all rewritten to use the wide screen of the Dana, and work exceptionally well. The arrow keys (and corresponding 'PgUp' and 'PgDn' functions) are well integrated into the Palm OS interface.

Other applications run in a 160x160 window in the centre of the screen, with a configurable 'WritePad' Graffiti area alongside. Given that at least 90% of working time will be

spent in the adapted applications, this arrangement is not the problem it might seem, and at least the Dana is 100% compatible with the rest of the Palm OS world. One small disappointment is that the 'Applications' screen wasn't adapted, which would have been a real help when more than a dozen or so applications are installed.

A 'Screen' utility in the Dana's ROM cleverly allows the display to be switched to either left or right-handed vertical





modes. A Graffiti WritePad is offered up automatically in these 'tall' modes, turning the Dana into a useful (if slightly ungainly) note-taking computer, one-hand cradling it and the other scribbling text with the stylus.

The European versions of the Dana will include a 'Productivity Pack', including wide-screen versions of Quicksheet and Quickword—the pack will be an option in the USA. Various other mathematical suites (including ImagiMath, ImagiProbe and the well-known PowerOne calculator) and educational software are also in development, and will be available separately.

The unit comes with a removable Ni-Mh 1600mAh rechargeable battery pack, which gets recharged either through connecting to mains power directly or simply by connecting to a host desktop via USB. The pack sits in a standard battery compartment, also fitting three standard AA cells, so it's easy to keep working in an emergency.

Overall, the Dana is an odd technology hybrid that works surprisingly well. As a low cost and low maintenance way of getting computers onto each desk in

the classroom, it's well thought out and well implemented. AlphaSmart also sells an 'AlphaHub', a lockable cabinet with power and HotSync ports for up to 30 Danas. Additional software lets teachers pre-configure and/or restrict all hosted Danas to suit the needs of the class (e.g. turning off all sound/beaming). And there'd be no worries about breakages, viruses and illicit games, the scourges of the laptop world.

Journalists and professional writers may also find a use for the Dana, with its excellent keyboard, relatively low weight and high reliability, although the child-friendly styling will probably put off the more style-conscious.

*Steve Litchfield*

## AlphaSmart Dana

**From:** AlphaSmart

**Contact:** [www.alphasmart.com](http://www.alphasmart.com) (or [co.uk](http://co.uk))

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**Quality:** ★★★★★☆

**Value:** ★★★★★☆





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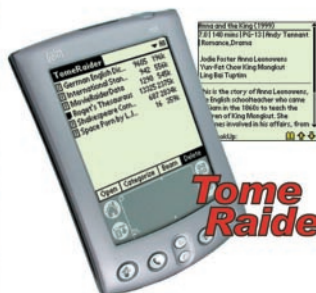
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## O<sub>2</sub> XDA

The ultimate aim of 'communicator' style PDAs is surely to integrate high-end mobile phone functionality into a device that doesn't compromise the basic PDA in any way. Handspring's Treo 270 (as reviewed in the last issue of *Palmtop User*) was the first credible attempt at such a device for those in the Palm OS camp, and the O<sub>2</sub> XDA represents a similar milestone for those with a preference for the Pocket PC 2002 operating system (also discussed in some depth in the last issue).

As a pure PDA, the XDA is pretty much standard fare, using a 206MHz StrongARM processor and employing a 16,000 colour, 320x240 pixel touch-sensitive screen. Less common for a modern Pocket PC device is the 32MB of built-in memory (rather than 64MB). Though not a major disability, it does ultimately limit the number of applications that can be kept running simulta-

neously, a factor that will be at least an annoyance to power users. Additional storage space for add-on software and data is provided by a standard SD (Secure Digital) card expansion slot at the bottom of the device.

The frontlit screen is crisp and clear, though unusually the light has only a single, 'full on' brightness setting. This only becomes a nuisance when using the XDA in dim lighting conditions, where the screen becomes a little too glaringly bright for comfort.

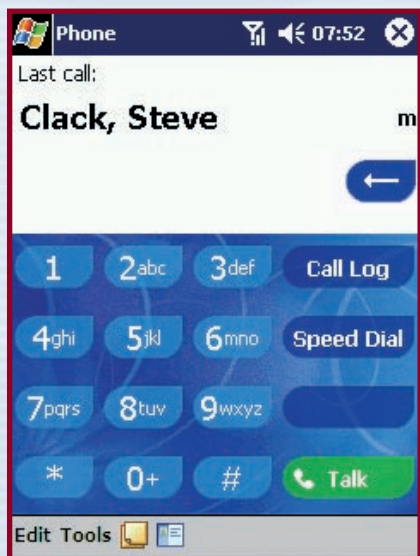
Built-in software is the standard Pocket PC 2002 suite, with Pocket Word, Excel, Internet Explorer, Inbox and all the other basic PIM features. A few extras are included, most notably those associated with setting up and managing the built-in phone.

At first glance, the only giveaway to the inclusion of a mobile phone within the XDA is the short 'stub' antenna protruding from the top right of the casing. Aside from that, it's actually smaller than the average PDA-only Pocket PC, measuring 130x74x17mm (5.1x2.9x0.7") excluding the protruding antenna. At 200g (7oz) it's just a little on the heavy side, and notably almost 35% heavier than the Handspring Treo 270, though still quite acceptable by Pocket PC standards.

The general construction quality of the XDA is excellent, and the smooth, curvaceous aluminium casing gives the unit a high quality feel, nicely finished off by the chrome-effect buttons. Rather than the usual four-button arrangement for Inbox (email), Calendar, Tasks (to-do list) and Contacts (address book), the



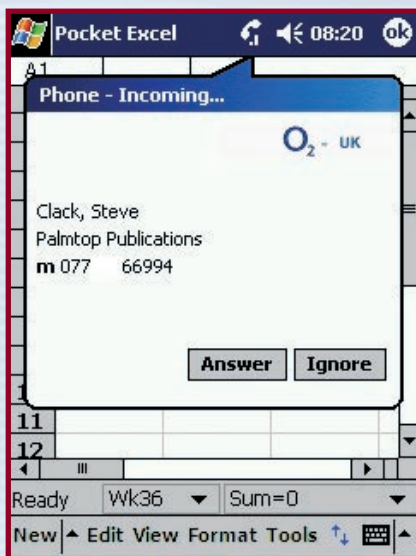




*A new breed of Pocket PC/phone hybrid...*

XDA has two at the top of the front panel for Contacts and Calendar, though as usual these can be re-mapped to alternative applications if desired. Near to the bottom of the front panel are a pair of buttons to start and end a phone call, marked with green and red telephone icons, as is standard phone practice. Navigation can be achieved via the usual four-way rocker switch, which in common with most Pocket PCs is just a little too small to be comfortable, but still a useful alternative to screen taps and scrollbars.

The power button is close to the top left corner, adjacent to the infrared port, and with a further button just down from that, where the usual Pocket PC voice note 'Action' button goes. This is set by default to access and adjust the telephone speaker volume. At the bottom of the unit is a socket for the hands-free stereo



*Clear notification of an incoming call*

phone headset that's supplied, which also doubles up for listening to MP3 recordings, plus a reset hole and Active-Sync cradle/mains adaptor socket.

Particularly impressive with the XDA is the completeness of the standard package. As well as the handheld itself and a particularly stylish black/silver USB sync cradle, there's a mains adaptor with interchangeable UK and European pin configurations, the aforementioned stereo headset, a nicely styled leather flip-top case with removable belt clip, spare stylus, plus a sheaf of real, printed manuals in place of the more usual CD-only documentation.

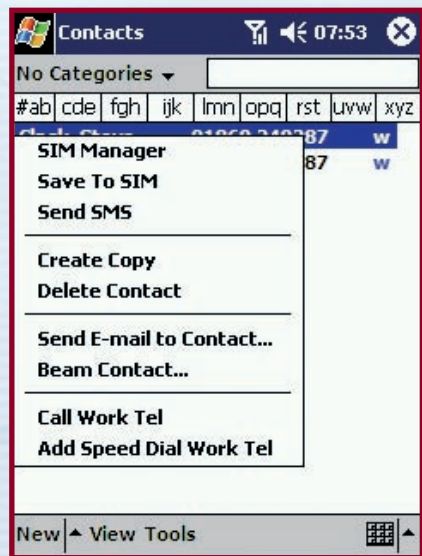
So, beyond styling and build quality discussions, this is a largely unremarkable Pocket PC 2002 device, apart, of course, from the built-in GSM phone. Designed and manufactured by Taiwan-

based HTC, the same company that builds HP/Compaq iPAQs, the UK-based O<sub>2</sub> phone provider (formerly BT Cellnet) has exclusive rights to sell the XDA in Europe. This currently means that it's unlikely to be made available outside the few European countries where O<sub>2</sub> currently operates, other than in the USA, where VoiceStream has recently announced the T-Mobile Pocket PC Phone Edition, essentially an XDA clone. The XDA is officially sold only with an O<sub>2</sub> airtime contract, the price of the XDA is currently around £300, which makes it rather good value when compared with other devices of similar functionality.



To make a conventional voice call with the XDA, a single press of the green 'phone' button on the front of the device jumps straight to the Phone application. At this point you're presented with a standard numeric keypad on screen, together with details of the last number dialled, access to a log of all recent calls, a speed dial panel for quick access to commonly-used numbers, plus the usual menu strip across the bottom of the screen and the Windows Start panel across the top.

In most cases, of course, you'll want to look up phone numbers from the XDA's Contacts application rather than keying them in longhand, and this is accessed by an icon at the bottom of the screen. From the contact list, a quick tap-and-hold on a contact name will pop up a dialog from which you can call any of the available numbers for that person,



*A pop-up menu of contact options*



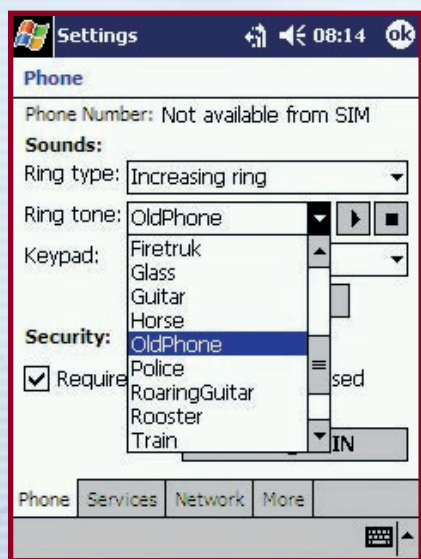
or jump straight to the Inbox application. This, as well as allowing emails to be sent via the mobile connection, has also been extended to include an SMS text messaging client.

By opening a contact's details into full-page view, it's possible to select from all the various phone numbers, email and web addresses for that person, with a single tap on the relevant item immediately initiating a call, email or web session. When making a call, the operating system helpfully pops up a warning dialog which gives the option to quickly cancel the call if desired. Incoming calls pop up a similar dialog, giving the option to either answer or dismiss. As you might expect, if the caller's details are present within your Contacts database, their full details will appear in the dialog, identifying exactly who you're about to talk to. Missed calls are flagged

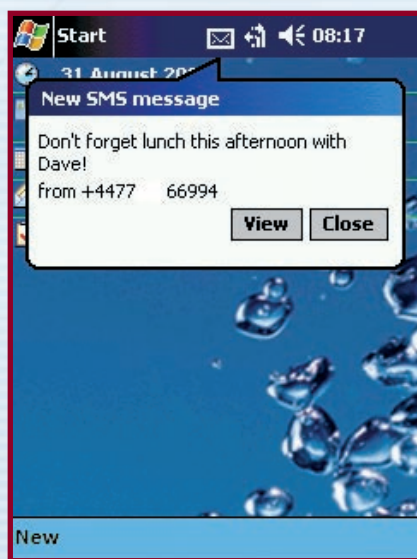
with a small phone icon at the top of the screen, and received SMS text messages show up with the usual warning dialog, plus a little envelope icon at the top of the screen.

Phone management is as you'd expect from such an integrated device, with logs of incoming, outgoing and missed calls, and one or two taps of the screen are all it takes to call back the selected number or send a text message. Phone settings can be changed via a separate panel, where you can choose from several ring tones, ringing patterns, and change parameters for features such as call forwarding, call waiting, and so on.

Holding the PDA directly to your ear and using the built-in speaker and microphone will unavoidably cause an unsavoury accumulation of facial grease, make-up or moustache hairs



*Plenty of ring tones and configuration options*

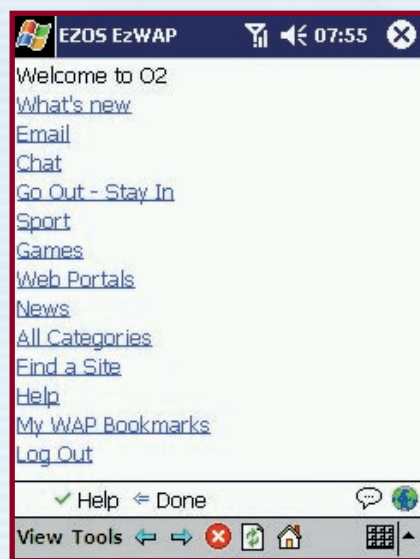


*Good SMS text messaging support*

around the screen, so with the XDA you're forced either to consciously hold the unit slightly away from your cheek in an unnatural posture while making a call, or use the hands-free kit supplied. Alternatively, if you press and hold the phone button on the front of the device for a second or two, the XDA will switch into speakerphone mode.

Aside from basic telephony, the XDA incorporates GPRS, which provides a ~40kbps 'always on' connection to the O<sub>2</sub> network. Current O<sub>2</sub> tariffs charge £3.00 per megabyte of data transferred via a GPRS connection, which makes it rather prohibitive for heavy personal use, though this rate will undoubtedly drop quickly as the service becomes more popular.

Using the XDA for web browsing with the built-in Pocket Internet Explorer is a



*A WAP client offers fast news content*

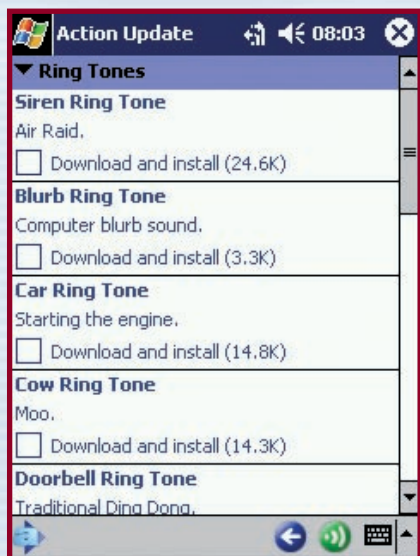


surprisingly acceptable experience, with page rendering speeds not far short of a 56k desktop modem setup, and the 320x240 Pocket PC screen being large enough to view a good range of web sites without excessive frustration. Of course, an identical experience is possible by using a Bluetooth-enabled Pocket PC (such as the iPAQ 3870 or 3970) and a Bluetooth GPRS phone (such as the Nokia 6310 or 6310i), but the advantage of only needing to carry a single device is beyond doubt.

A major benefit of the 'always on' nature of GPRS is that it takes only about five seconds to start accessing a web page, rather than the few tens of seconds it normally takes to dial up and make a network connection every time.

GPRS web connections are achieved via O<sub>2</sub>'s own dedicated portal by default, but email must be sent and received via your own Internet Service Provider. In order to have incoming emails appear instantly in your Inbox as soon as they are received by your ISP, you'll need to use an ISP that supports the IMAP4 email format (rather than the more common POP3, which doesn't have the ability to 'push' messages to your handheld in this way, instead requiring you to manually connect to receive messages).

As well as the usual phone, email, SMS and web access, the XDA comes supplied with a dedicated WAP client—always



#### Downloadable add-ons via Action Update

useful for quick news, weather updates and other short, text-based content.

Additional software on the XDA includes Action Backup, a really useful tool that allows you to back up your handheld to O<sub>2</sub> servers on the Internet, restoring everything in the unlikely event of a hard reset. You won't even need to re-enter your account details before restoring lost data, as the XDA incorporates an area of free flash memory to hold these settings. This is an excellent concept for anyone travelling away from base, provided that you're always in a location with O<sub>2</sub> network access and don't mind the potentially huge download.

A companion application, Action Update, allows the XDA to log on and search for software updates as they become available, automatically downloading and installing them as required. This includes

the option to grab new ring tones, games and background images, which will undoubtedly prove popular.

Given the limited availability of the XDA around the world, the issue of hardware add-ons naturally arises. If you plan to rely on specific peripherals such as plug-in keyboards or GPS navigation aids then you should check on the availability of XDA-compatible units before making a buying decision.

All in all, the XDA is a solid Pocket PC 2002 device, with good integration of phone and PDA, bundled into an unusually complete package at an attractive price. If you live in a country where the O<sub>2</sub> network is available and you don't mind buying a contract-inclusive device, then the XDA is a good choice.

Steve Clack

### O<sub>2</sub> XDA

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## Toshiba e740

Toshiba's new flagship device running Pocket PC 2002, the e740 is available in three models, all with 64MB of memory and the new 400MHz PXA250 XScale processor. The base model has no wireless connectivity built-in, whereas the e740-BT has integrated Bluetooth, and the e740-WF incorporates 802.11b wireless LAN networking.

All three models have Toshiba's usual combination of both SD (Secure Digital) and Type I/II CF (CompactFlash) expansion slots, which gives excellent flexibility. For example, if you'd like both wireless LAN and Bluetooth, you can buy the e740-WF and just plug in a CF card Bluetooth adaptor, which still leaves the SD slot free for memory expansion. Similarly, if you want masses of storage space, just plug in a 512MB solid state CF or SD disk or a 1GB IBM Microdrive miniature hard disk.

Although most of these expansion options are available for other Pocket PCs via expansion jackets and various plug-ins, no other device on the market

currently offers Wi-Fi built-in, and Toshiba is the only manufacturer to include both SD and CF slots.

Flexibility is really the name of the game with the e740 series. The plug-in, flush fitting battery pack can be exchanged in a few seconds, and RAM-based data is protected during battery change by a rechargeable, integral backup battery. The standard battery tends to last around four hours or so between charges in general use, but as well as the option of buying a second, standard battery pack, a (bulkier) high capacity pack is also available.

Aimed squarely at the business user, an optional \$100 Expansion Pack (shown in photo opposite) plugs into the bottom of the unit and allows the e740 to be connected directly to a VGA monitor or projector for presentations. The pack also has a USB port, which can be used to attach a standard full-sized PC keyboard.

Packaged with each e740 comes a nice protective leather slip case, standard USB sync cradle, and a fairly standard software bundle, with the only extras being IA Presenter and IA Mirror, for use with the Expansion Pack for presentations.

The e740 has almost identical styling to the earlier 'budget' e310 model, which, although adequate, doesn't quite match the quality feel of handhelds from manufacturers such as Compaq, Sony or Palm. The e740 casing is essentially a plastic body with brushed aluminium panels bonded to the front and back. It still looks businesslike and solid—just



not as handsome as other models on the market.

The controls on the e740 are not the best in town either. It's great to see a handy Jog Dial control down the left side of the unit, but this feels decidedly thin and flimsy. More seriously, the 'Action' button above it for recording voice notes is not recessed enough and is too easy to press accidentally. When pulling the e740 out of its slip case, it's infuriatingly easy to initiate an unwanted voice note every time, just by pressing gently on the sides of the case while removing the handheld. The easiest way to prevent this is to keep

the e740 in its case upside down, where the button tends to be less prone.

The standard four-way scroll button is rather small (as it tends to be on most Pocket PCs), and the on/off button at the top of the machine feels a little wobbly too. On the plus side, the 65,000 colour frontlit display is big, bright and clear, and at 170g (6.1oz) the unit is surprisingly light for such a powerhouse.

And a powerhouse it is. Relatively minor criticisms of build quality tend to pall into insignificance when accessing email and web content at ISDN or ADSL speeds via a wireless LAN. Configuring and connecting an e740-WF to our Apple Airport 802.11b WLAN required no more than the setting of a single menu option, and everything thereafter worked faultlessly at distances of up to 15m from the wireless hub. The Bluetooth version wasn't available for review, but given the effectiveness of Bluetooth on other Pocket PCs, the process should be equally simple and transparent.

Integral wireless naturally has an impact on battery life when switched on, but in our tests the e740-WF ran happily for almost 2½ hours of continuous web browsing via wireless LAN, with the backlight on maximum brightness. Not half bad for a slim, shirt pocket device, especially with a battery charge time of less than two hours.

As well as a 400MHz processor, the e740 specifications include an ATI Imageon Graphics controller and 384K of internal video memory, which appear primarily designed to facilitate the external monitor or projector connection,



as they have no noticeable effect on the performance of the built-in display.

With the latest processor technology and cutting-edge features, the Toshiba e740 range will ultimately be compared against the Compaq iPAQ 3900 series (see next page). There's really nothing the e740's can do that can't be added to an iPAQ via an appropriate expansion jacket or other peripheral, but the beauty of the Toshibas is that so much is possible without adding any bulk, and the e740 is already both slimmer and lighter than the iPAQ.

If you're looking for a compact package with wireless capabilities and/or the flexibility to add both SD and CF memory cards and add-ons, then the e740 range

is an elegant solution. In particular, those with previous investments in the older CompactFlash technology, such as Psion users, will welcome the ability to make use of their old CF disks, while still being able to buy into newer Secure Digital peripherals.

*Steve Clack*

## **Toshiba e740**

**From:** All major handheld dealers

**Contact:** [www.toshiba.com](http://www.toshiba.com)

**Price:** £500/£550 (BT)/£580 (WF) inc.VAT

**Quality:** ★★★★★☆

**Value:** ★★★★★☆

## **XScale power?**

There has been much hype regarding the new breed of 400MHz Intel PXA250 'XScale' processors built into the latest Pocket PC devices, such as the Toshiba e740 and Compaq iPAQ 3900 series. The bad news is that although almost twice as fast as the previous standard 206MHz Strong ARM processors in Megahertz terms, there is little or no performance benefit on existing Pocket PC devices. With certain tasks the XScale processor is in fact slower than its 206Mhz predecessor.

Microsoft acknowledges the problem, and states that it is due to the PXA250 using the ARM V5 instruction set, which although backwards compatible with ARM V4 as used in the Strong ARM devices, has yet to be optimised to offer speed improvements in the core Pocket PC 2002 software suite.

Fully optimised applications will likely appear in the coming months, as will a properly optimised update to the Pocket PC operating system, though Microsoft has yet to announce any kind of timescale for the latter.

## Compaq iPAQ 3950/3970

The Compaq iPAQ range has been the top selling Pocket PC virtually since its inception, starting with the 3600 series back in the late 1990s. The new 3900 series is externally indistinguishable from the previous 3800 models, though internally there have been a number of significant improvements.

The new iPAQ is available in two models: the basic 3950, and the 3970, which has an integral Bluetooth radio, just like the earlier 3870. Both new models incorporate the new Intel XScale 400MHz processor, together with a fabulous new 'Transreflective' frontlit colour screen. The appearance is similar to the screens on the Palm OS Sony NR70, SJ30 and T675C models, but considerably brighter when the frontlight is set to maximum.

Easily the best colour screen ever seen on a PDA, it's almost never necessary to use the maximum brightness setting and, even when set to the absolute minimum, the brightness is more than ample for nighttime viewing. Not only is the screen exceptionally bright, but the colour saturation is impressive too, with everything appearing bright and clear, rather than the rather muted and dull hues found on many colour handheld screens.

Also improved over previous models is battery life, which despite the improved screen lasts happily for four to six hours between charges—longer if the screen brightness is set fairly low.

Overall construction quality is beyond reproach, as with previous iPAQ models, though the curvaceous styling isn't to everyone's taste. All the chrome-finish

application buttons feel delightfully solid and responsive, and the oversized four-way scroll button is superior to almost all the competition. It's a real pity that a Jog Dial still hasn't been incorporated for navigation, but this is perhaps our biggest criticism of the design.

As with previous models, memory expansion is via a single SD (Secure Digital) slot in the top of the machine. Given the longstanding popularity of the iPAQ range, a huge range of 'expansion jackets' can be slid over the iPAQ casing to add slots for CF cards, PC cards, wireless LAN, bar code readers, GPS receivers and almost every other PDA peripheral you can think of. Because Compaq/HP has taken the sensible measure of keeping the iPAQ casing and connector specifications unchanged between recent models, almost all 3800 series add-ons will work quite happily





with the 3950/3970, as will most of those designed for the 3600 and 3700 series'.

As well as the standard 64MB of internal memory, the 3950 model comes with around 6.6MB of free space in non-volatile 'flash' memory, known as the iPAQ File Store. This is the ideal place to house a selection of your most vital programs and data, as it's safe during either a hard reset or battery failure. The Bluetooth 3970 has an impressive 22MB of such space, which for many users will be quite enough to store their entire collection of add-on software without having to buy an SD memory card for the purpose.

Both iPAQs are bundled with a combination sync cradle that works with both USB and older RS232 serial connections, together with a recharging cable that can be disconnected from the cradle to double up as a travel charger. A stylish slip-on plastic hard case is also included, and the sync cradle is designed so that the handheld will fit into position either with or without the case in place.

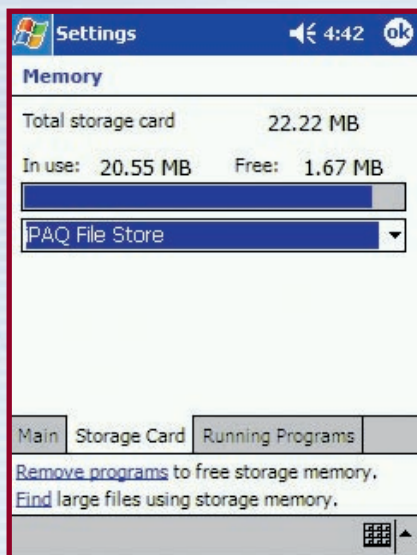
In common with earlier iPAQs, the fit onto the sync cradle tends to be a bit wobbly, and sometimes needs a little jiggling in order to locate the connector firmly into place. This annoyance could so easily be cured by designing the cradle with longer slide-in 'runners', as Toshiba has done with the e740.

Apart from the cradle there's almost nothing to fault, and included in the box as well as a spare plastic stylus is a quite superb range of bundled software. Already pre-loaded into ROM memory is the usual Pocket PC

2002 suite, plus Compaq's useful iTask program launcher. This is accessed from one of the four front panel buttons by default, and provides quick and easy access to commonly-used programs and controls, as well as being an easy way to shut down background tasks, change backlight settings, and so on.

A slightly unusual but welcome addition to the ROM-based software is Nevo, a glamorous and powerful program that allows you to set up the iPAQ as a remote control centre for every infrared-enabled device in your home. From pre-set configurations for hundreds of household devices and the ability to add graphics to represent your favourite TV channels, Nevo has it all, and makes excellent use of the iPAQ's big, clear screen. It takes a little work to set up, but once done you'll have everything at your fingertips, and you can even use multi-step macros to perform such actions as turning on the TV and audio system, setting up A/V mode and switching your DVD player to start playback automatically. (See [www.mynevo.com](http://www.mynevo.com) for more information).

Extra software bundled on CD includes Margi's Presenter-to-Go, which allows Microsoft PowerPoint and other Windows files to be converted for use on the handheld, either directly or via a VGA adaptor. There's also the alternative WordLogic keyboard input system (see page 82), Quick View Plus for viewing more than 70 desktop file and attachment types, the Pocket Watch world time clock, together with a selection of free games, ebooks, utilities and demo software.



*Lots of extra storage space, via File Store*

Just to round things off, there's a voucher that allows you to select and download £50 or so worth of bonus software, including the choice of top-end games such as SimCity 2000 and FIFA Soccer 2002, applications such as TomTom's CityMaps, finance and fax software, expense tracking software, and so on.

When so many software bundles offer no more than a few lacklustre freebies, it's great to see a package that includes so much that's of real value.

The iPAQ 3950 and 3970 both represent an impressive package then, with top notch hardware complemented by a fairly comprehensive software suite. It's a little disappointing not to see an equivalent to the built-in wireless LAN capability of the Toshiba e740-WF, and the single SD slot means that many add-ons require an expansion jacket. However,



*Nevo—an unusual but useful inclusion*

with more accessories available than for any other Pocket PC on the market, the iPAQ range remains the safest bet for those with the need to expand. With such stunning screen quality, many first time Pocket PC buyers will find it love at first sight. With current street prices up to £80 or so less than the listed RRP, the 3960 and 3970 offer good value for money too.

*Steve Clack*

## Compaq iPAQ 3950/3970

**From:** All major handheld dealers

**Contact:** [thenew.hp.com](http://thenew.hp.com)

**Price:** £490/£600 RRP inc. VAT

Quality: ★★★★★☆

Value: ★★★★★☆

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## Documents To Go

version 5.0

It's all very well being able to edit Microsoft Office documents on your Palm OS handheld, but crunch time comes when back at the office and synchronizing them back onto the desktop. If any formatting, structure, styling or objects are lost, then the exercise has been largely pointless, as the original document will have to be manually reworked, potentially wasting a lot of time.

This then is the aim of any 'office' application on a handheld—to allow as much editing access and functionality as possible *without* losing extra information in the desktop original. Despite being generally fully featured, Word and Sheet on both the Psion and Nokia 9210 range fail in this department, trying to convert and transfer the entire document in both directions. Pocket Word and Pocket Excel on the Pocket PC generally fare better, though are still far from perfect.

In the Palm OS world, both Blue Nomad's WordSmith and Cutting Edge Software's Quickword and Quicksheet also try to work with the entire document, and to their credit largely succeed, though they each use intermediate file formats (RTF and HTML, respectively) to achieve the transfer.

Documents To Go (DTG) is much more elegant, using DataViz's much-touted 'DocSync' technology. This works directly with the original binary Office documents, preparing special editable 'views' for HotSync onto the handheld. After changes have been made within these views, they are intelligently merged back

into the original desktop documents on the next HotSync. The system worked very well for our test Word and Excel documents, with only a few issues for the PowerPoint-compatible component.

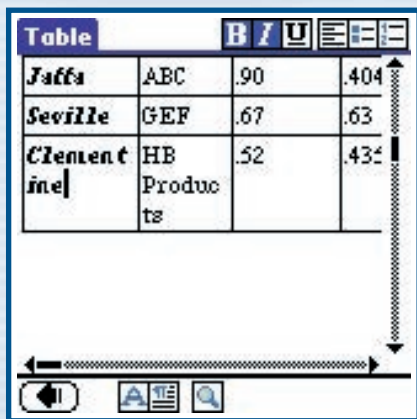
In addition to allowing the viewing and editing of the three main Office file formats, DTG Premium Edition 5.0, as reviewed here, also includes DataViz Mail, PDF To Go and Pics To Go, of which more later. As well as PC compatibility, Apple Macintosh users get equivalent support for Word, Excel and PDF files, though no PowerPoint or email functionality, and OS X support has at last been added.

The new Word To Go component is probably the star of the show, with proper handling of inserted pictures, which are shown resized to fit the typical Palm screen (tapping on this image brings up a scrollable, full-size Graphic View), and editable tables. These are shown within the main document in read-only form, and a tap on either of the top or bottom 'Edit' buttons bring the table up within its



Full support for ad-hoc text formatting





*Editing a table in Word To Go*



*An embedded image in Word To Go*

own view. Despite the apparently basic nature of Word To Go's presentation and interface, all changes get successfully applied in the right place in the desktop master at HotSync time, with no loss of formatting, styling or structure.

Font support is limited to basic representation of Courier, Arial and Times Roman, displayed in four different sizes, with Word To Go using the one

closest to that specified in the paragraph text. Unlike WordSmith, there's no anti-aliasing (smoothing) on colour screens, which is a pity.

In theory, the next biggest improvement to DTG for version 5 is in Slideshow To Go, which had previously been restricted to read-only graphical previews. There's now a proper slide content editor, in which a 'Return' character starts a new



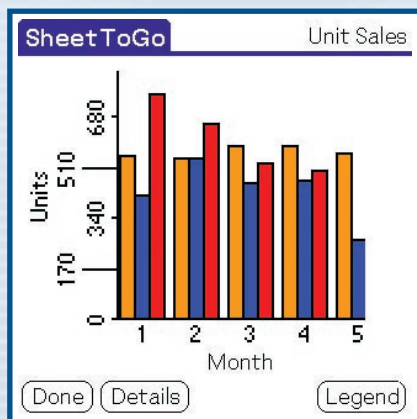
*Editing slide content in Slideshow To Go*



*Slide preview, complete with rehearsal timer*

Sheet ToGo									
Unit Sales									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Worldwide Unit Sales								
2	Part	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1 TOT	Apr	May	Jun	Q2 TOT
3	Widgets								
4	A150	443	565	731	1739	564	765	321	1650
5	A160	121	332	56	509	876	432	232	1540
6	A170	29	102	78	209	876	232	444	1552
7	Total	593	999	865	2457	2316	1429	997	4742
8	Gadgets								
9	E210	45	87	43	175	34	65	76	175
10	E220	3	56	43	102	65	45	19	129
11	E230	34	21	98	153	23	56	78	157
12	Total	82	164	184	430	122	166	173	461
13	Dohickies								
14	B400	990	1001	445	2436	444	542	224	1210
=SUM(E3:E6)									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Done <input type="checkbox"/> f <sub>x</sub> ◀ ▶ ◀ ▶ ◀ ▶									

*Sheet To Go running on a hi-res Sony Clie...*



*...and charting too, via a separate module*

bullet point and icons appear at the bottom of the screen for promotion or demotion of the current point in the slide's bullet layout. The old preview mode is still there, with two zoom levels and a new (very basic) timer facility, for rehearsing your presentation spiel. There's also a notes field for each slide, with the scroll buttons (or jog dial) thankfully moving appropriately through the presentation.

With no graphical tools, creative control is naturally limited, but Slideshow To Go is still handy for reviewing presentation text while on the move or for drafting out the text of a new one.

There are, however, a number of catches to the current version of Slideshow To Go. Each altered presentation is converted, slide-by-slide and painfully slowly at HotSync time, with a simple test file taking almost a minute. There's also a degree of file bloat, and my 56K document became 160K on the handheld. There's plenty of room for optimisation here.

Finally, the application is currently buggy. I experienced a number of HotSync 'hangs' after nothing more sinister than adding notes to a slide on the handheld or inserting an Excel chart back on the desktop. Still, this is early days for DataViz's presentation component and I'd expect to see it fixed up in due course.

The third major component is, of course, Sheet To Go. Its interface suggests that there's less raw functionality here than in its standalone commercial rivals, but everything the vast majority of spreadsheet users will need is here. And DocSync again steps in to raise the bar, making sure that desktop and handheld documents are kept in perfect step without overwriting viewing preferences on either (e.g. column widths and row heights). New for version 5.0 and very welcome is a 'Sort' command, enabling any selected cell ranges to be sorted using information from up to three different columns.

DTG's 'SmartChart Technology' (strangely still supplied as an extra component rather than being built into the spreadsheet) allows you to view and change existing workbook charts or create new ones.

As you might expect from the image support in Word To Go, the basic picture viewer from previous versions is still present and correct. Pics To Go suffers awfully in comparison to standalone image browsers/viewers (such as SplashPhoto), but it's still handy to have included if your needs are simple. For a few family snapshots and perhaps a product picture or two, this is fine.

By default, each image is shown in reduced (almost thumbnail-like) form, with an on-screen button to zoom it to actual size, at which point you can scroll around using the stylus. I liked the way Pics To Go remembers which view you prefer for each individual image. One limitation for Handspring Treo 270 owners is the restriction to 256 colours, as the 12-bit colour screen is not directly supported. Palm m515 and Sony Clie owners will be able to view the full 65,000 colour palette.

PDF To Go sounds a lot grander than it really is, and turns out to be a bit of a disappointment. Considering DTG's graphical advances elsewhere in the product, I'd expected more than a humble reduction of PDF files into starkly formatted Word To Go documents. While this is fine for text-heavy PDFs, you'll have to look elsewhere if you need the graphics, tables, and so on.

Given the DocSync and conduit technology on the desktop, extending file

handling to email attachments is a logical next step, and DataViz Mail delivers well. Although nothing special as a conduit-based email client, the support for attachments is spot on. For example, you can construct emails on your handheld, attaching multiple DTG documents. At the next HotSync these will be merged back into their desktop master files and attached to an appropriate email in your Outlook (or Outlook Express or Lotus Notes) Outbox.

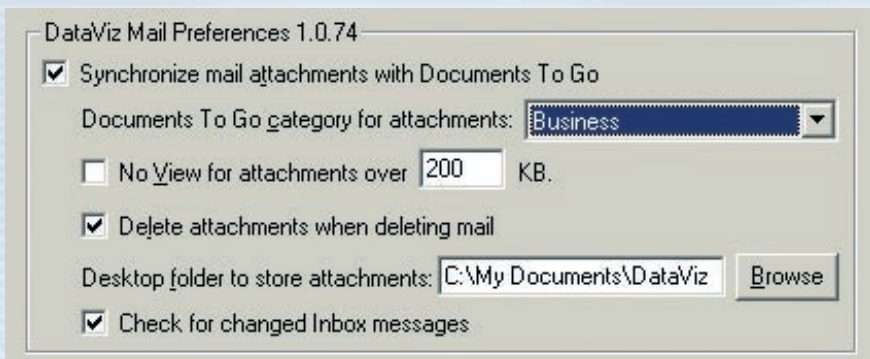
DTG is driven from a beautifully simple desktop manager, into which you can drag just about anything. All the popular office and picture formats are supported on both Windows and Mac platforms. Rather curiously, HTML support is absent. I'd have expected at least a simple translation of this into Word To Go.

A similar, but simpler, shell is the default interface on the handheld, in which you can filter items either by Palm OS category or by DTG document type, or both. The inclusion of 'Card' as an extra category takes a little getting used to, but



*The Documents To Go 'shell' on the handheld*





### *Configuring the DataViz Mail conduit*

this does drastically simplify the process of moving items between memory and expansion card.

DTG Premium Edition 5.0 has full support for the high resolution screens of the Sony Clié range, including the 320x480 screen of the NR70. As with previous versions of DTG, document opening is almost instantaneous, whatever the file size.

Although DataViz claims compatibility with the keyboard-equipped Handspring Treo range, 'Option' characters have to be typed using two separate key presses (one for the Option key, one for the main key), which slows things down slightly.

Getting hold of DTG in its various incarnations has always been rather complicated. In addition to the Premium Edition reviewed here, there's a Professional Edition (Word To Go, Sheet To Go and Slideshow To Go only), bundled with many Palm-branded handhelds, and a Standard Edition (Word To Go and Sheet To Go only), available standalone and also bundled with many Sony Clié units. Add in registered owners of DTG Profes-

sional versions 3 and 4, and you have a complicated upgrade matrix, at which point I refer you to the DataViz web site. Upgrades are typically \$30 to \$40.

The main criticism levelled at DTG in its non-bundled forms is that it's too expensive. This is rather harsh, considering how much power is being placed into the hands of professional business people with a single product. The very first time you make practical use of travelling time by working on an important desktop document, knowing that little or no rework will be necessary when back at base, you'll probably agree that your money has been well spent.

*Steve Litchfield*

## **Documents To Go 5.0**

**From:** DataViz

**Contact:** [www.dataviz.com](http://www.dataviz.com)

**Price:** \$70 (upgrades from \$30 approx.)

**Quality:** ★★★★★☆

**Value:** ★★★★★☆



## PdfPrinter

Pre-release version

Even hardened computer hacks such as myself have come to appreciate the benefits of the PDF format over the past few years. Adobe Acrobat documents, with filenames ending in '.PDF', have become the standard for distributing important (usually read-only) documents. Every recipient will (in theory) see exactly the same formatting and layout, and you can explicitly control whether printing, text selection, and so forth, are allowed or not. And now you can create PDF files on your Psion palmtop or Nokia 9200 series communicator.

The significance of this is not at first obvious. After all, who in their right mind would want to author manuals or product datasheets on a humble handheld computer? And indeed, for a Psion or Nokia owner who works near their desktop for most of the day, the conversion of documents to standard, editable Office formats for later rework is usually a good bet, even if there is some loss of formatting involved.

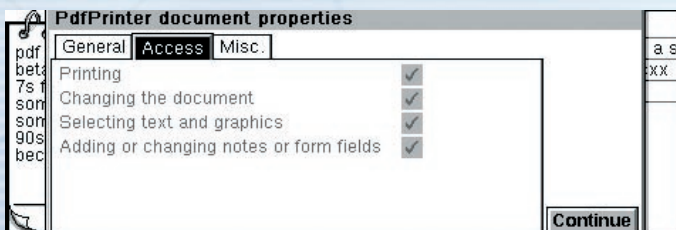
But consider the situation when working away from the office, perhaps in a hotel or meeting room, or out in the car, armed only with a Nokia 9210 communicator (or Psion handheld plus mobile phone). Sending Office docu-

ments out 'blind', using the onboard Nokia converters (or third party ones on the Psion), hoping that not too much is missing when viewed at the other end, is not ideal.

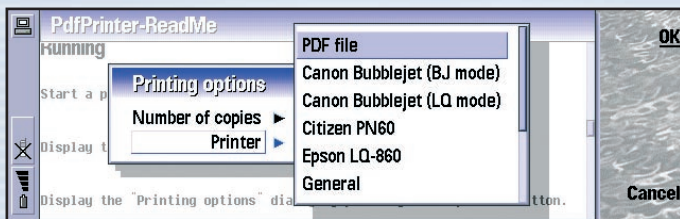
PdfPrinter installs itself into your Psion or Nokia printing system and appears as just another printer driver to choose from. The pre-release version we reviewed had much of the PDF Properties dialog disabled, but mBrain Software claims that the release version will give full access control, plus encryption and password protection if needed. Any application that can print can also now save to a PDF file.

In theory, being able to send out formatted and image-rich documents, knowing that the recipients will see them as you do (at least as you do on your palmtop's 'Print preview' screen) and being able to control what happens to them after receipt, is a major step forward.

Another possible boon is being able to email out documents and information from Psion or Nokia applications for which there's no direct desktop partner or obvious format. For example, we tested PdfPrinter with graphical records in Psion's Data and with the third party mind mapping and outlining tool, PsiMind. In each case, we were able



**Setting up a PDF file's properties (greyed out in this pre-release version)**



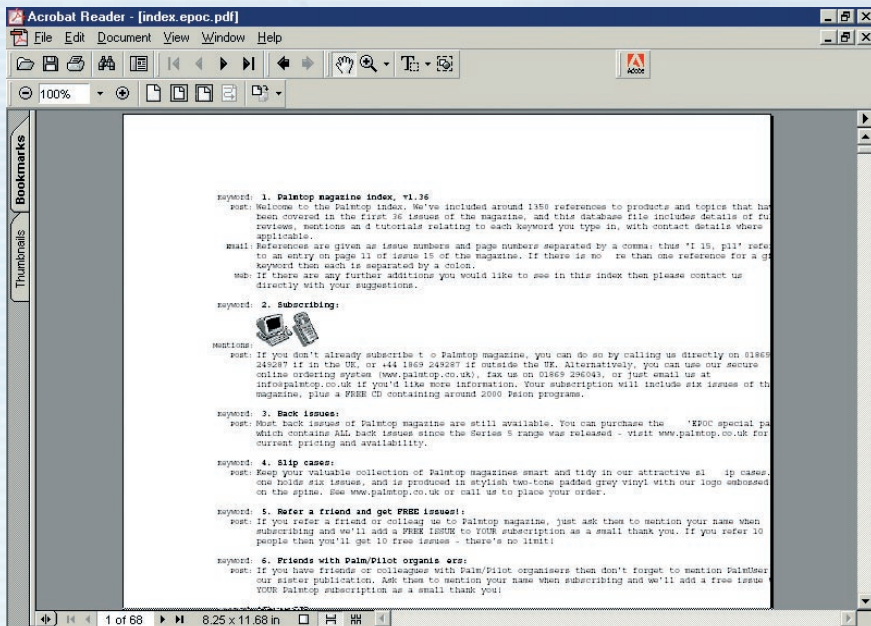
Choosing the PdfPrinter driver on a Nokia 9210

to transmit the document electronically where previously the alternative would have been the lowest common denominator, plain text.

PdfPrinter is not without some small issues at this beta pre-release stage, with occasional extra spaces appearing within words and with lines flowing off the edge of the (virtual) page. But it's stable, it's slickly integrated and it's written by the same folks who have given

us PDF viewers for both Psion and Nokia in the last few years, giving confidence that all will be well in the end.

Although PDF file sizes are usually larger than those of the documents they've been produced from, the difference is not necessarily huge. Even a PDF file produced from a complete listing of a 1000 record Data database (originally 80K) only ended up at 320K. The actual 'printing to PDF' process is quick, with



Viewing an emailed PDF of our test Data file

small documents completed in a second or two and our big Data file taking just over a minute, which is quite impressive.

Any tool that helps open up the relatively 'closed' world of Symbian and EPOC is going to be welcome, and PdfPrinter looks set to become a valuable addition to any Psion or Nokia communicator's application armoury.

*Note that PdfPrinter only works on ER5 palmtops, i.e. not on the original Series 5 'Classic', Oregon Scientific Osaris or the Geofox One.*

Steve Litchfield

## PdfPrinter

**From:** mBrain Software

**Contact:** [www.mbrainsoftware.com](http://www.mbrainsoftware.com)

**Price:** TBA

**Quality:** ★★★★★☆

**Value:** N/A (pre-release)

## Quality software

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- ✓ Archives

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- ✓ RMRInvest
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Title	Val
Riggs Checking	1917.37
Fleet MasterCard	19.90
AIR Value	15210.00
AIR Constellation	14113.40
Shares	324.66
House Value	158900.00
Mortgage	2861.07
Rent	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>787442.19</b>
<b>Group</b>	<b>192764.66</b>

Date	Title	Ent	Value
10/04	House Insurance	1	17.00
13/04	Cashpoint	200.00	
24/04	Fleet Payment	2213.07	
04/05	Bank Charges	7.95	
10/05	House Insurance	1	17.00
<b>Balance</b>			<b>1917.37</b>



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# Email in the Palm of your hand

*Steve Turczyn searches for the King of Palm OS email solutions and also takes a peek across the wider PDA world*

**W**hen people talk about the advantages of wireless Internet access, email is usually the first application mentioned—being able to read, reply to and manage your email while away from your desk is surely appealing to just about everybody. If you use a Psion, Nokia or Pocket PC device then you already have a fairly capable email solution built in, but if you're running Palm OS then there's a bewildering array of third party solutions available, and we'll focus primarily on the best of these within this article.

## Palm OS email solutions

**MultiMail**, in its 'Pro' version, and with its Windows/Macintosh conduit, has long been the king of Palm email applications, supporting up to eight accounts and with support for POP3, IMAP4, MS Exchange, Novell GroupWise and Lotus Domino. A variety of attachment formats are also

supported, including Word, Quicksheet, CSV, text, vCard and Palm native files.

The downside is that MultiMail hasn't been updated for a few years now, not since the acquisition of its authors by Palm, and the product is starting to show its age. It has no memory card support and shows some instability under more recent versions of Palm OS. MultiMail

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Mail Server' configuration window from the MultiMail application. The window has a blue title bar with the text 'Mail Server' and a small icon on the right. Inside the window, there are several fields and buttons. The 'Mailbox:' field is followed by a row of eight numbered buttons (1 through 8). The 'Title:' field contains the text 'Server1'. The 'Server:' field contains the text 'postoffice.worldnet.att.net'. The 'Type:' field has three icons: a mail icon for POP, a mail icon for IMAP, and a mail icon for NNTP. The 'Username:' field is empty. The 'Password:' field contains the text '-Blank-'. At the bottom of the window, there are four buttons: 'OK', 'SMTP...', 'More...', and 'Cancel'.

*MultiMail supports POP, IMAP and NNTP (newsgroup) servers*





*SnapperMail in standard stylus mode...*



*...and in finger mode*

may still wear the crown, but the crown doesn't rest easy.

**SnapperMail** is the newest entrant in the field, but nonetheless a potential crown prince. This email client appears to have been designed from the ground up with the user's experience in mind, and consequently is one of the sweetest and easiest applications to use. In addition to 'stylus' mode, the user interface also has a 'finger' mode, in which the screen touch areas are chunkier. Touching the scroll bar in finger mode widens the bar temporarily for easy scrolling.

But SnapperMail isn't just eye candy. Thanks to its design and partnership with the providers of various viewers, SnapperMail supports the most common attachment types: JPG images, vCard records, HTML files, Word and Excel documents and Palm native files. Zipped attachments are also no problem for SnapperMail, and with its VFS support you can save any attachment to a memory card, or attach any file on your memory card to an outgoing

email. Message and attachment sizes are limited only by your available device memory.

SnapperMail does fall down in a few areas. Although it supports unlimited accounts, they can only be POP3 at present, as IMAP is not supported. And there's no conduit to your desktop client, though the developers claim that both these areas are actively being worked on.

**iambic Mail** is another contender for 'best of breed'. iambic has a good track record of professional applications and this is no exception. The product comes with a conduit to synchronize with various desktop clients, including the usual Outlook and Outlook Express, plus Lotus Mail and Lotus cc:Mail.

The iambic Mail client supports multiple accounts, and will handle both your POP3 and IMAP servers. It's also one of the few email clients that also supports SMS text message servers.



*iambic Mail will show a few 'preview' lines*



*iambic Mail supports POP3, IMAP4 and SMS*

The client can cope with unlimited message sizes and attachments, although only as far as to drop them onto an attached memory card—there are no document viewers. Word and Excel attachments can be converted to iambic Office format (TinySheet and Fastwriter) but, annoyingly, this conversion can only be done on documents received and synchronized via the desktop, so Office files received wirelessly can't be viewed or converted at present.

**Eudora Mail** is another POP3 email client with a conduit that can handle multiple accounts. Although it doesn't support attachments, it does come as part of a suite that includes a web browser, and tapping on 'hot links' within a message will automatically open the browser to the right page. Eudora Mail has a fairly comfortable user interface, including multiple selections and drag-and-drop support, and it has some fairly sophisticated filtering to help you specify how to handle messages.

Although not in the top echelon of email solutions, Eudora Mail is acceptable if you don't need attachment support or IMAP, and best of all, it's free.



*Eudora Mail does a good job of rendering HTML mail*



*DataViz Mail's mail list...*



*...follow the link to view the attachment*

If you purchased a recent Palm or Sony device then the chances are that you also received a copy of Documents To Go. This can be upgraded to the 'Professional' version (see page 55) which also adds **DataViz Mail**. Unlike the other products discussed here, DataViz Mail doesn't support wireless or modem connection to your email servers—it's purely a desktop synchronization tool, getting your emails from Outlook, Outlook Express or Lotus Notes, and ensuring that supported attachments are transferred to your handheld when you HotSync.

Partly because everything complicated happens on the desktop, DataViz Mail has very good attachment format support, including Word, RTF, various spreadsheet formats, PDF, PowerPoint, and images in JPG, GIF or BMP format.

Because Documents To Go is a document editor and not just a viewer, you can modify attachments on the handheld, forwarding them to other email addresses at the next HotSync.

**TapMail** is an attractive email client that supports multiple accounts (both POP3 and IMAP), and uses meaningful icons extensively to aid navigation.

TapMail's approach to attachments is unusual and Palm-centric. Essentially, you can attach one or more records from your Address Book, Date Book, To Do List or Memo Pad databases. Similarly, you can receive messages with TapMail-generated attachments from another user, and then tap on them to automatically incorporate them into your own standard databases. Strangely, none of this functionality is documented in the manual.

When a desktop user receives such attachments, they appear as small text files with unique extensions ('.tpa' for addresses, '.tpm' for memos, '.tpi' for To Do items and '.tps' for Date Book items). We would have preferred to see the data exchanged in a more universal standard, such as vCard.



*TapMail's message list*



*PaPiMail's remote server view*

For a small community of wireless Palm users, all equipped with TapMail, this proprietary functionality has some benefit, particularly if they don't all have the Palm OS 4.x extensions for sending entries via SMS.

**PaPiMail** is a straightforward product without attachment support, but it does allow you to define up to eight POP3 or IMAP accounts. It has a slightly different approach to email, letting you switch between 'local' views (what's on your device) and 'remote' views (what's on your server).

This works very well when you approach the job of managing your server email. The remote view can apply colour filters based on subject, to, from, or cc, and tapping on an item will preview a limited number of lines. You can choose to download and/or delete multiple messages by tapping on the two columns to the left of the messages and then tapping the Execute button.

### **Email out of the box**

It's worth noting that many Palm OS handhelds include some degree of email support 'out of the box'. This ranges from a simple HotSync-based conduit to Microsoft Exchange, Eudora or cc: Mail (Outlook support is also often bundled on the supplied CD), to a full multi-account POP3 client (One-Touch Mail) in the case of the HandSpring Treo communicators.

If your current HotSync setup does not appear to include email, have a look at the 'Mail setup' entry in your Windows program group, or insert the installation CD again and have a browse.



### **And the rest...**

Some excellent email applications and tools have been deliberately excluded from the main round-up of Palm OS solutions. Generally, these weren't covered because they fell short in all of three areas: not supporting IMAP or attachments, and not providing a desktop assistant. However, these applications may still be perfectly adequate for your purposes:

**AceMail** is a colourful email client with support for up to eight accounts. It is generally praised for its friendly interface. \$15, from [www.aceunion.com](http://www.aceunion.com).

**Mailer** handles displays up to 360x420 pixels, as per the NR/NX Sony devices, and can recognise 'buddy' senders, identify them with a colour, and download message bodies for such senders automatically. \$30, from [www.electricpocket.com](http://www.electricpocket.com).

**Mark/Space Mail** supports unlimited accounts, provides filters for identifying and handling mail, and supports both Clié and HandEra high resolution displays. \$20, from [www.markspace.com](http://www.markspace.com).

**VFSMail** isn't a full email product. What it will do is let you send any files on your expansion card to any email address. \$10, from [www.ninelocks.com](http://www.ninelocks.com).

**InstantEmail** has several interesting bells and whistles: emails can be scheduled for future sending, can be routed automatically, and sending accounts can be created 'on the fly'. There is even an option to retrieve the weather instantly. \$30, from [www.instantemail.net](http://www.instantemail.net).

**riteMail** works on Palm OS, Pocket PC or almost any Java-enabled device. It allows multiple accounts, both POP3 and IMAP servers are supported, and in addition recognises an account called 'HotSync' which is, naturally enough, your desktop email. It is, however, exclusively a 'digital ink' product, allowing you to send or receive scribbled messages or drawn sketches produced on another riteMail client. A variety of pen sizes and colours are provided, as well as tools to ensure rough circles and wobbly lines are rendered true. The desktop recipient will find the drawing embedded in their received message, along with ActiveX buttons to return or forward sketches, or open their own drawing window. riteMail allows you to use your own SMTP client, or to send via the riteMail servers. \$30, plus annual subscription, from [www.ritemail.net](http://www.ritemail.net).



## Corporate solutions...

If you're looking at deploying handheld PDA email access at an enterprise level, there are a number of Palm OS solutions that have appeared over the past few years. The best of these incorporate security, manageability and scalability. Some intelligently manage attachments, and many incorporate diary and contact visibility as well.

The newest player in this space is Palm Corporation itself, best known of course for handheld hardware, with its **Tungsten Mobile Information Management Solution**. This product comprises, firstly, hardware (not surprisingly, only Palm-manufactured devices, the i705 for wireless WAN access, or the m500 series with the wireless LAN module—in future, the list will naturally incorporate new Tungsten-branded devices as well). There is also the Mobile Information Management Server, connecting to corporate MS Exchange, Lotus Domino and IMAP servers to provide secure, wireless access to PIM and email. Then there's the Enterprise Services Portal, for account and access administration.

Palm claims to add to the mix enterprise-class service and support, and obviously hopes to sell its solution via the unique position of being both the hardware manufacturer and the integration provider. Expansion card support for email attachments or corporate databases will apparently not be available in the initial release.

**Aileron** is an industrial strength solution, and approaches the issue of document attachments via a server-side product for enterprise customers. The

server converts spreadsheet and document attachments to Palm-format, and any documents the user may attach to outgoing messages get converted back to standard Word or Excel format at the server before forwarding. This has inherent performance advantages: attachments are only transmitted and received wirelessly in their Palm format, which are usually smaller and therefore faster and cheaper to exchange. Aileron is also flexible in which Palm-based formats can be used—it currently supports Documents To Go, WordSmith and QuickOffice.

For personal use, Aileron also provides client and desktop-conduit solutions to connect to either POP3 or IMAP accounts. An interesting wrinkle is that the desktop conduit will let you synchronize your email on any Internet-aware desktop—it doesn't necessarily have to be your own computer. Further, for Outlook product users, if Outlook or Outlook Express is perpetually running on an on-line desktop, you can remotely manage your desktop email via your Palm.

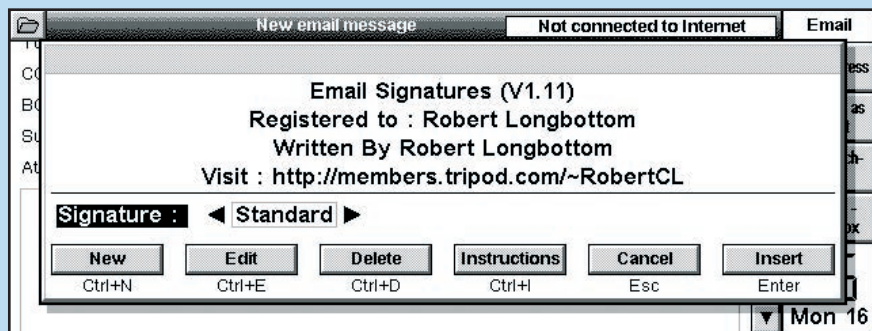


*Aileron supports full AES encryption*

## Email with Psion and Nokia

As with Pocket PC devices, Psion palmtops and Nokia communicators come with working email clients as part of the operating system bundle. The only exceptions in the Psion world are the Series 3 range, for which you should seek out the now-deleted **PsiMail Internet** for download, and the original Series 5 'Classic', which needs upgrading using Psion's 'Message Suite'.

Email in modern (ER5) Psion palmtops can be augmented with a number of add-ons and macros, particularly **MailArc** (£10, from [www.kudata.freemove.co.uk](http://www.kudata.freemove.co.uk)), which archives old emails into delimited database files for future reference, and **Signature** (£5, from [members.tripod.com/~RobertCL](http://members.tripod.com/~RobertCL)), which offers up to 25 signature options for ending your emails. There's also an advanced, alternative email client, **XJMail** ([www.hi-ho.ne.jp/~ktkawabe/densha\\_e.html](http://www.hi-ho.ne.jp/~ktkawabe/densha_e.html)), though you have to work hard sometimes as the author's native language is Japanese.



On the Nokia 9210/9290 and 7650 communicators, Cibenix's excellent **Active Desk** (\$25, from [www.cibenix.com](http://www.cibenix.com)) adds the ability to schedule and customise automatic, unattended email connections. **Active Mail**, (also \$25, from [www.cibenix.com](http://www.cibenix.com)), replaces the standard email software entirely, adding numerous new capabilities, including flexible folder synchronization and the use of 'rules' to specify exactly what gets downloaded, based upon sender details, header and message content, message size, and so on.



**SureWave Mail** is from the makers of One-Touch Mail, and is a server software solution for delivering Microsoft Exchange and Lotus Domino PIM and email to portable devices. It supports Palm OS, Pocket PC and RIM devices, each of which can be wireless or can access the server software via a desktop component during a local HotSync. Multiple devices per user are permitted.

SureWave Mail also mimics RIM-style 'push' technology to GSM and CDMA smartphones (including connected Palm OS devices), ensuring that you see your email as soon as it's delivered.

**SymmetryPro** is a similar heavy-duty solution, useful if you have a corporate Microsoft Exchange account. It provides a desktop module that automatically routes incoming messages to your Palm handheld wirelessly, assuming that the desktop has Internet access. It can even be set to activate automatically when your screen saver activates, thereby only forwarding messages when you're away from your desk. At present though, it doesn't support attachments.

**Treo Mail Corporate Desktop Edition** is essentially a synchronization tool for your Outlook/Exchange or corporate POP3 accounts hidden behind a firewall. It provides a desktop assistant that runs on an Internet-connected desktop and communicates with the Treo Mail servers. The communicator component will check the servers periodically for new messages (as often as once every 30 minutes, if required) and will then notify you of any new messages. The Treo Mail servers can also send SMS text messages immediately to your communicator, so that you can be aware

of pending email and request a manual synchronization. As with SymmetryPro, outgoing messages are sent from your desktop via the desktop assistant, so from the recipient's perspective you're sending emails straight from your desk.

An Internet version is available, which doesn't require the desktop component. It only supports POP3 accounts, but like the Corporate edition can be set to poll for new emails automatically.

**WorkStyle** comes in Server Edition and Desktop Edition. The Server product works with Microsoft Exchange or Lotus Domino servers, and allows access to information, including email, on mobile phones, Pocket PC and Palm OS handhelds and communicators, plus laptops. The Desktop Edition works on your Internet-connected desktop computer to synchronize to Microsoft Outlook, including email, calendar and contact information, supporting most devices with browser capabilities. Attachments are supported in Documents To Go format, purchased separately.



*WorkStyle synchronization in progress*



### **Availability**

**MultiMail Pro** and **MultiMail Conduit** - \$40 each for individual components or \$60 for the two bundled together, from Actual Software, [www.actualsoft.com](http://www.actualsoft.com).

**SnapperMail** - price TBA, from SnapperFish Ltd, [www.snappermail.com](http://www.snappermail.com).

**Eudora Mail** - free, from Eudora, [www.eudora.com](http://www.eudora.com).

**iambic Mail** - \$20, from iambic, [www.iambic.com](http://www.iambic.com).

**DataViz Mail** \$70 as part of Documents To Go Premium Edition, but upgrade offers are available if you already purchased a version or received one with your device, from DataViz, [www.dataviz.com](http://www.dataviz.com). Note: as we went to press, DataViz announced Inbox To Go, which supports full wireless functionality.

**TapMail** - \$20, from T. Hashimoto, [www.qtap.net](http://www.qtap.net).

**PaPiMail** - \$20, from System Engineering Service, Inc, [www.ses-soft.com](http://www.ses-soft.com).

**Tungsten Mobile Information Management Solution** - (pricing dependent on review of requirements, contact the vendor), from Palm Corporation, [www.palm.com](http://www.palm.com).

**Aileron** - price is variable, depending on which components you select, but is typically an annual service fee. Remote Desktop Access Service, for example, is \$80 per year plus airtime costs, from Corsoft, [www.corsoft.net](http://www.corsoft.net).

**SureWave Mail** - (pricing dependent on review of requirements, contact the vendor), from JP Mobile, [www.jpmobile.com](http://www.jpmobile.com).

**SymmetryPro** - available as a subscription service, \$12.95/month plus airtime costs, from Infowave, [www.symmetrypro.com](http://www.symmetrypro.com).

**Treo Mail** - available as a subscription service, \$100/year for the corporate edition, \$50/year for the Internet edition, plus airtime costs, from Handspring, [www.handspring.com](http://www.handspring.com).

**Workstyle** - Server Edition price is \$70 per seat, for a minimum of 10 seats. Volume discounts are available for those wishing to purchase more than 100 seats. The Desktop Edition is a subscription service, at \$70/year, all from Wireless Knowledge, [www.wirelessknowledge.com](http://www.wirelessknowledge.com).

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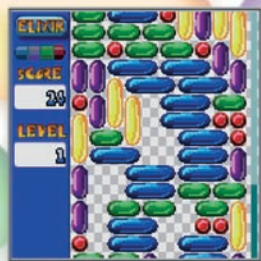
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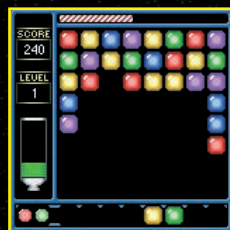
# The GAME ZONE

*The hottest new games on the handheld scene...*

**A**ll of these games are either new or have been significantly upgraded recently. Although colour screenshots are shown where possible, most games also work in monochrome.

## **BUBBLE POP** (Palm OS)

As with similar games (one, confusingly, even with the same title), the idea in **BapSoft's** Bubble Pop is to fire coloured bubbles off at the mass already on the screen, in an attempt to create matching sets of three—and it's all against the clock. Unique in this implementation is firing off pairs of bubbles at a time, which adds an extra level of strategy. Bubble Pop is well programmed, with three difficulty levels, a small memory footprint and attractive graphics. \$10, from [www.bapsoft.com](http://www.bapsoft.com).



## **ROLLERS** (Palm OS)

It's good to see totally original games still appearing. **Handarea's** Rollers is good for both quick play times and serious puzzle sessions. By manipulating the tiles in each level, you can direct the course of the ball, eventually releasing other balls and triggering various point-scoring reactions. If anything, the rules and scoring are over-complicated, but it's still a fun and novel game. \$8, from [www.handarea.com](http://www.handarea.com).

## **FIGHTER ACE** (Palm OS)

Also by **Handarea**, and rather similar to Astraware's 'Biplane Ace', Fighter ACE is a top-down dogfighter, this time based around jet fighters rather than World War I biplanes. Despite the lovely background landscapes and cloud animations, the action is frenetic and slightly confusing, even with the game speed set to 'Slow'. \$10, from [www.handarea.com](http://www.handarea.com).





## SUPER DUCK 3D (Palm OS)

Someone's stolen the power stars in Duck Land, and, surprise, surprise, it's your job to guide Super Duck through 14 levels of isometric adventuring to collect them all back again. **Paul Ellams'** epic is wonderfully slick throughout, with cute animations and sound effects. Different terrain types, opponents and special objects all add to the interest, with the only catch being a slightly fussy control system that can send Super Duck in ever decreasing circles. \$12, from [www.ellams.f9.co.uk](http://www.ellams.f9.co.uk).



## BUMP ATTACK PINBALL (Palm OS)

**iambic's** original Bump Attack was one of the very best pinball simulations on any handheld, and this overhaul only adds to its reputation. Firstly, there are five tables to play on instead of two (the new ones are Oakwood, Soccer and Dungeon), each of which features an extensible set of 'missions', combinations of targets and scores to achieve a specific objective. Secondly, it now supports the various high-resolution screens in the Palm OS world. And finally, it's faster and slicker than ever, with in-game music if your handheld supports it. \$20, from [www.iambic.com](http://www.iambic.com).

## T-BLASTER (Palm OS)

Created by **Astraware** specifically for people wanting to practice keyboard skills, this is a step up from the old Giraffe game for perfecting one's Graffiti strokes. A variety of colourful aliens descend from the top of the screen, each carrying short words. Entering the appropriate letters fires off a destructive salvo, and you can then quickly move on to entering the next incoming word. Fast typists will find the game too easy, even on the hardest level, but it may be useful for those new to their keyboard or wanting to practice Graffiti. \$10, from [www.astraware.com](http://www.astraware.com).



## LINK LETTERS (Palm OS)

The object of **Astraware's** latest word game is to transform one word into another in the minimum number of turns, by changing, adding or removing one letter at a time. A little animated figure gives instructions and comments on your progress from level to level, as the game play gradually advances from downright easy to fiendishly hard. An engrossing must-have for all word game fans. \$15, from [www.astraware.com](http://www.astraware.com).





## ROOKS REVENGE (Palm OS/Pocket PC)

Not just another chess game, this new title from **Astraware** is a 'real time' chess battle. Once the timer starts, you have to follow all the usual chess rules regarding movement of pieces, but you can move them as fast as you like, without worrying whose 'turn' it is. You can't move a single piece twice in succession, but otherwise it's a frantic free-for-all. You can even build new pieces to replace those that leave your home row. It tends to be more a test of quick reflexes than chess skills, and games generally last no more than a few minutes, but it's lots of fun. \$15, from [www.astraware.com](http://www.astraware.com).



## TIGER WOODS GOLF (Palm OS/Pocket PC)

**ZIOsoft's** golf games have always been great to look at and absolute dogs to play, and Tiger Woods PGA Tour Golf is unfortunately no different. Why, when there are so many good golf simulations on the desktop, do we have to suffer handheld versions that have no 'feel' or subtlety, where you spend every hole vaguely hacking in the general direction of the hole, and it becomes more of an ordeal than an entertainment. \$15 for Palm or \$30 for Pocket PC, from [www.ziosoft.com](http://www.ziosoft.com).

## POCKMAN (Pocket PC)

New from **Soft Agency** is this clone of the original PacMan arcade game. The object is simple: run around the maze and munch away all the small dots, but avoid confronting the deadly ghosts. Eat the bigger dots and you can chomp your way through the spooky apparitions and progress to the next level. Several interesting features and 25 levels will keep ardent PacMan fans happy for hours. All in all, good value for money and a faithful version of a very popular game. \$5, from [www.pdautilities.com](http://www.pdautilities.com).



## ODYSSEY (Pocket PC)

There have been quite a few space shooter games launched recently, but the quality of this fast-paced classic from **Aim Productions** is excellent, with the highlights being the smooth-scrolling 3D graphics and rather neat sound effects. Fans of space shooters will find the gameplay fairly predictable, but this in no way spoils a feature-packed experience that includes an assortment of different opponents, a multitude of different attack waves and a good choice of weapons. \$15, from [www.aimproductions.be](http://www.aimproductions.be).



## ULTIMATE MINESWEEPER (Pocket PC)

Recently developed by **Made by Kiddies Inc**, this strategy game has its roots firmly embedded in the classic Minesweeper game. However, this up-to-date version is certainly an improvement over the original, with the rather drab grey board having been replaced with a choice of four scenic locations and a lifelike character to sweep for mines. The rules are the same though, the faster you use the stylus to flag the mines, the more points you score. \$10, from [www.madebykiddies.com](http://www.madebykiddies.com).



## GANGSTA RACE (Pocket PC)

Possibly the best cartoon-style graphics ever seen on a handheld, this masterpiece from **Garga Games** is a real feast for the senses. It's a 'top down' car race game featuring 10 different tracks, three difficulty settings and the option to add missiles, oil slicks and other weaponry to spice up the race. There's a superb stereo soundtrack to accompany each level, so you'll probably want to plug in your headphones for this one. Car control works exceptionally well via the stylus, with buttons to activate weapons. \$20, from [www.gargagames.com](http://www.gargagames.com).

## CUBEHEAD (Pocket PC)

Another beautifully crafted title where the animation and soundtrack play an important part in the experience, **Cascata's** CubeHead looks at first glance like it might be just another tile puzzle. Once up and running, it's fast-paced all the way, as you jog the rows and columns down, left and right to line up three or more identical tiles and make them disappear, thus scoring points. There's plenty of depth, with different scores for each tile type and animated bombs, Easter eggs, 'MIX' tiles and more. Totally addictive. \$18, from [www.cascata.co.uk](http://www.cascata.co.uk).



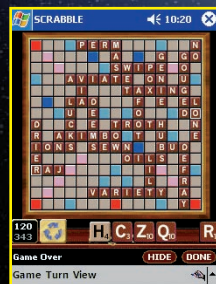
## INTERSTELLAR FLAMES (Pocket PC)

Two-dimensional shoot-em-ups do tend to pall after a while, so **Xen Games'** latest space action game is a visual delight. Fly through asteroid fields and attack the giant enemy dreadnoughts to save the day. It's fairly tricky to master, with enemy fighters, deck guns, shield generators and radar dishes to be taken out, but it's a cut above the usual standard for the genre on handhelds. The only real disappointment is the rather tinny soundtrack, which fails to match up to the excellent graphics. \$7, from [www.xengames.com](http://www.xengames.com).



## SCRABBLE (Pocket PC)

A long-awaited title, version 1.0 of **Handmark's** edition of the classic board game sadly lacks some features of the Palm OS equivalent. Intelligent use of colours and shading mean that the Pocket PC version *looks* better, but it offers three difficulty levels rather than four on the Palm, no on-screen display of the current word score, no elapsed time display, and other features that must be accessed via menu selections rather than simple buttons. On the plus side the Pocket PC version is much faster when taking the computer's turn, and the support for word definitions and multi-player games is all there, but otherwise a little disappointing. \$30, from [www.handmark.com](http://www.handmark.com). (Currently licensed for USA/Canada only).



## FIFA SOCCER 2002 (Pocket PC)

Controlling 11 players on a football field with nothing more than a stylus and a couple of buttons sounds ambitious, and **ZIOSoft's** simulation certainly requires a little patience to get to grips with, though you'll find a handful of graphical help screens to ease you into the game. It's well worth persevering though, as the game has fabulous animated graphics and simply masses of that all-important atmosphere. Once you've got the hang of it, you'll find FIFA Soccer 2002 hard to put down. \$30, from [www.ziosoft.com](http://www.ziosoft.com).

## STRIFE (Psion)

Designed for both Series 5/Revo and Series 3 Psion palmtops, **Damian Walker's** Strife is a turn-based strategy game. Play against another person, the computer, or watch two computer players fight it out. There are three scenarios: Armoured, Enchanted and Galactic, to suit your combat preferences. There's also a game creator and OPL source code for those interested in customising this freeware game. [strife.snigfarp.karoo.net](http://strife.snigfarp.karoo.net).



## WALL (Psion)

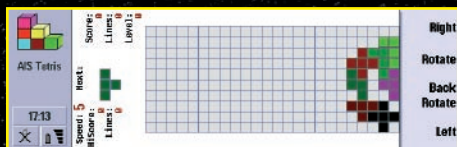
Breakout clones for the Psion have been done before, of course, but this offers some fresh twists and 18 new levels. **Viking Ltd's** Wall has nine different bonus types, each of which fall and must be collected by the paddle, all the time keeping the main ball in play and clearing the level before the timer(s) run out. Paddle control is adequate,



although somewhat tricky on the less responsive Revo keyboard. The demo version gives you the first five levels to play with. \$12, from [www.vikinggames.hu](http://www.vikinggames.hu).

## GADGET GOLF (Nokia)

It's a sad fact that the majority of golf games on handheld computers seem to favour flashy graphics over actual gameplay, and Gadget Golf is no better or worse than most. There's no allowance for wind speed and direction, or of terrain, slope, and so on, without which the game lacks real depth. The splash screens, three dimensional mechanics and texture-mapped graphics all impress hugely though, and an updated version with more realistic gameplay would be just about perfect. Keep your eye on Nokia for this one. The demo version allows just one hole of one course to be played. \$25, from [www.nokia.com](http://www.nokia.com).



## AIS TETRIS (Nokia)

Tetris is Tetris, we guess, although **Epocware** has added a slight twist by offering 'hard' shapes (five blocks per piece rather than four) as an option.

Seven speed settings, sound effects and a colourful display mean that AIS Tetris can be set up to please both existing and brand new Tetris players. As you'll see from the screenshot, this game plays sideways, using the 9210's command buttons for shape movement and rotation. \$15, from [www.epocware.com](http://www.epocware.com).

## SKYRAIDER (Nokia)

Nokia 7650-owning space shoot-em-up fans may like to give **m-internet**'s Skyraider a try. Looking like a combination of about five arcade vertical scrolling games, the concept of zapping aliens and collecting power-ups will be very familiar to most. You can navigate your ship vertically and horizontally, pick up shields and acquire rapid firepower. A visually impressive application, but hardcore gamers will be disappointed, as the game's joystick navigation has limitations—you can't use it to move and fire, and ship movement is unforgiving. \$20, from [www.m-internet.com](http://www.m-internet.com).



# Fast input!

*Steve Clack looks at tools and techniques to achieve fast text entry on your handheld, without a physical keyboard*

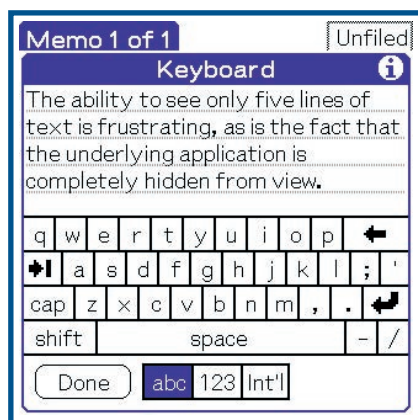
**S**o many handheld users get hung up on the idea that a 'real' physical keyboard is the only satisfactory means of inputting text. Although still the most comfortable solution for large amounts of data entry, there is a wide range of alternatives now available, many of which, with a little practice, can give surprisingly good results.

## Built-in options

If you're using a Palm OS or Pocket PC handheld then you already have access to a pop-up keyboard that can be invoked with a single tap or menu selection. The big plus points of these are of course that they're already in place and ready to go, and they use the familiar QWERTY (or regional equivalent) layout.

The down side is that because they span the entire width of your handheld screen, your side-to-side stylus movements must cover a considerable distance as you tap from letter to letter, which will necessarily limit the maximum entry speed you can achieve.

The pop-up Palm OS keyboard also suffers in several other areas. First of all, it's necessary to tap on 'Shift' in order to register an upper case letter (the Pocket PC 2002 keyboard lets you do this simply by dragging the stylus upwards a short distance from the desired letter, which is much quicker). Secondly, the Palm OS keyboard appears in its own window, so you can only see five lines of text at a time, and the underlying application is completely hidden from view until you hit the 'Done' button.



*The built-in Palm OS keyboard is quite limited, and there are better alternatives*

## Tap versus scribble

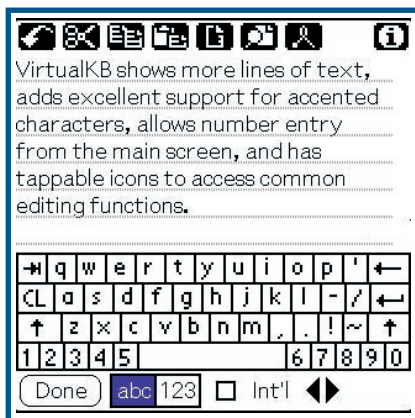
Keyboards aside, there's always Palm OS' Graffiti gesture recognition system or Pocket PC's Block Recogniser, Letter Recogniser or Transcriber alternatives. Although each has its own benefits and all are quite adequate for modest amounts of text entry, speed is ultimately limited by the time it takes to scribble out each letter, gesture or symbol.

There's no doubt that tapping letters on an on-screen keyboard has the potential to be faster than any gesture-based system. The limiting factor is the time it takes the hand and eye to move to (and tap) each letter, and the amount of additional time and effort required to access upper case letters, numbers, punctuation, accented letters, and so on.

## A faster keyboard

The good news is that there are a number of alternative on-screen keyboards for both Palm OS and Pocket PC, offering various advantages over the built-in versions.

**VirtualKB** (freeware, downloadable from [www.palmgear.com](http://www.palmgear.com)) is a good alternative that pops up in place of the standard Palm keyboard. It has the benefit of showing the numeric keys together with the main keyboard rather than on a separate keypad, and allows a selection of 'International' symbols (including the £ and Euro) to be shown in an extra row of keys that appears above the QWERTY layout. There's also a row of icons along the top of the screen to undo/redo the last entry, copy, cut, paste, highlight all the text, enter the Graffiti ShortCut stroke, plus Virtu-



*VirtualKB is a good alternative for Palm OS*

alKB's own search and replace feature. Squeezing all the extra keys onto the screen does make them a little harder to hit accurately, but most users are likely to prefer it to the built-in option. Graffiti characters can also be entered while VirtualKB is running. Along similar lines, **Keyboard Hack** for Palm OS (\$6 from [horaceho.net](http://horaceho.net)) is also worth a look.

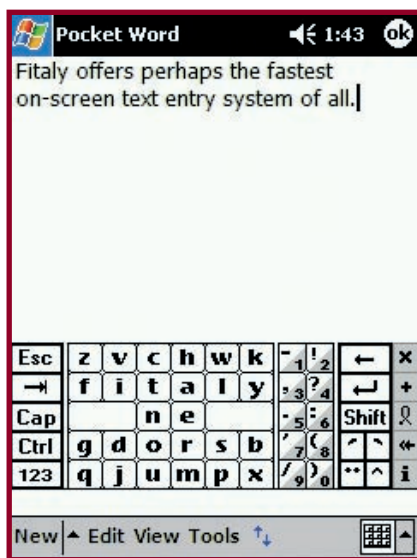
**KeyboardBee** for Palm OS (\$20, from [www.mobi-systems.com](http://www.mobi-systems.com)) offers 10 alternative keyboard layouts, including a complete alphanumeric version. Rather than using a full-screen dialog that hides the current application from view, KeyboardBee pops up in either the top or bottom half of the screen, with the underlying application still visible.

## Do you QWERTY?

If you're a seasoned computer user then you'll probably have mastered the standard desktop keyboard to some degree, even if you only type with one or two fingers. This is certainly a help when using a tiny on-screen QWERTY

keyboard, but that's not to say that you shouldn't consider alternative layouts.

An exceptionally effective alternative to the standard layout is the **Fitaly keyboard** (\$30, from [www.fitaly.com](http://www.fitaly.com)), available in both Palm OS and Pocket PC versions. Rather than using the traditional QWERTY arrangement, the 26 letters of the alphabet are grouped into a 6x5 letter matrix, little more than half the width of a conventional layout. The non-standard keyboard layout forces you to learn from scratch, but the optimised positioning of letters reduces hand movement enormously, with 73% of the keystrokes used for normal (English Language) text all placed within the central area of 10 keys. With a little perseverance, most handheld users will eventually be able to match their best typing speeds using the Fitaly system.



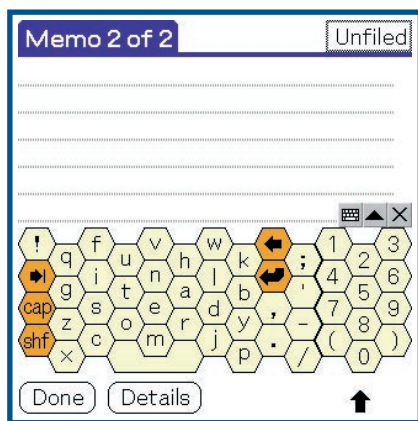
*The Fitaly keyboard is well worth mastering...*

Fitaly is enormously configurable, with full access to punctuation, numbers and accented characters. Capitals are entered by sliding rather than simply tapping on a letter, and the Palm OS version of the product is also available as FitalyStamp, a plastic keyboard overlay for the Graffiti area that leaves the entire screen unobstructed. The Pocket PC version also incorporates an impressive glossary function, which works much like Microsoft Word's AutoCorrect system.

Very similar to Fitaly, one of the layouts built into KeyboardBee (see previous page) is the hexagonal-keyed 'Funady' layout, which again groups the most commonly used letters into a small cluster.

## Stick-ons

As well as the stick-on **FitalyStamp** (\$35, from [www.fitaly.com](http://www.fitaly.com)) for Palm OS, **Silkyboard** (\$15-\$30, from [www.silkyboard.com](http://www.silkyboard.com)) offers a standard QWERTY layout that sticks over the Palm



*...or KeyboardBee's similar 'Funady' system*



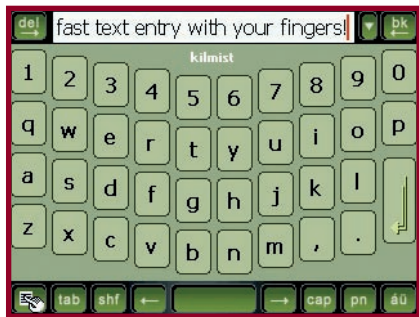
Graffiti area. Aside from the obvious benefit of leaving the main screen area free of pop-up clutter, it offers a quick tap-and-hold rather than a separate 'Shift' key to enter upper case letters, and Graffiti can be used at the same time.

## Going full screen

An alternative for quick streaming of text is to use a full-screen keyboard that can be tapped with fingers rather than a stylus. **FatFinger** for Palm OS (\$15, from [www.avaion.com](http://www.avaion.com)) allows for a variety of tappable keyboard layouts within the square Palm screen, and **Kilmist Keyboard XL** for Pocket PC (\$10, from [www.kilmist.com](http://www.kilmist.com)) provides a fairly conventional QWERTY layout.

## Text shortcuts

In conjunction with good keyboard entry speeds, there are a number of software add-ons that help to take some of the leg work out of text entry, such as **TextPlus** for Palm OS (\$20, from [www.smartcell.com](http://www.smartcell.com)), which pops up suggested alternative words as you type, or Palm OS' built-in **ShortCut** system, which can be used as a simple



### ***Kilmist Keyboard XL for Pocket PC***

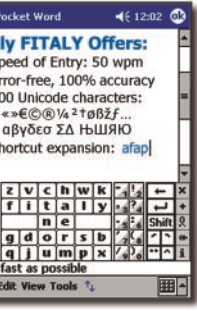
'glossary' to save keystrokes. Pocket PC 2002 has a similar (though non-customizable) 'Word Completion' system built in, but the excellent **WordLogic** on-screen keyboard (\$20-39, from [www.wordlogic.net](http://www.wordlogic.net)) adds a flexible, predictive entry system that can reduce keystrokes even further.

## Stick with it!

If you enter a lot of text on your handheld then it's well worth taking the time to try out some of the alternatives discussed here. Perhaps the most important point is to persevere with each method for long enough to get used to its own way of working. And once you've chosen a system that suits you, remember that, as with typing skills on your desktop computer, practice makes perfect!

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# An introduction to

# Wi-Fi

*Steve Clack takes an introductory look at one of the most important emerging technologies for PDA users*

**V**ariously (and confusingly) known as Wi-Fi, IEEE 802.11b, Wireless LAN and WLAN, the terms all refer to the same thing—wireless technology that allows computers to be networked together without cables, currently at distances up to around 100 metres.

## Wi-Fi versus Bluetooth

Although both are based on wireless technology and there's inevitably some overlap between the two, Wi-Fi is intended primarily as a means of connecting two or more computers together into a network, rather than for communicating with local printers, mobile phones and other peripherals—something more suited to Bluetooth.

Because it has around ten times the range of Bluetooth, Wi-Fi currently consumes rather more power, though both are still usable on handheld devices. Specifications for power consumption and oper-

ating ranges are in a state of constant flux for both Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, as the underlying technologies improve.

## What can be connected?

For corporate use, Wi-Fi (short for Wireless Fidelity) offers a means to keep laptop and handheld computers permanently connected to the corporate network, just as though they were attached via standard cabling, such as Ethernet. Although current Wi-Fi specifications limit the effective data transfer speed across the wireless network to less than 20MB per minute (11Mbps maximum), this is perfectly adequate for anything you might wish to do on a current handheld. With a Wi-Fi connection to a PDA, it's possible to send and retrieve emails via the corporate server or with a dial-up connection through a router, or to synchronize data with a host computer on the network without the need for a synchronization cradle.

## Wi-Fi in the home

Wireless synchronization is probably less important in a domestic setting, but with Wi-Fi hardware becoming cheaper all the time, it's easy to set up a handheld to use your desktop computer's Internet connection for emailing and web browsing from your PDA, anywhere in the house. Importantly, you can make use of your desktop computer's (or home-based network's) high speed ISDN or Broadband (ADSL) hook-up.

## On the desktop

If you're attaching to an office network then your IT Manager will of course be responsible for making the wireless connection from your handheld. If you're a home user trying to make the link then you'll first need to purchase and set up suitable equipment for your desktop computer or home-based network. PC users have a huge variety of Wi-Fi hardware options to choose from to connect either to a single PC or a network, so it's best to consult your local dealer for advice. If you're an Apple Macintosh user then Apple's AirPort system is 100% Wi-Fi compatible (it's standard 802.11b), so if you install an AirPort Hub there are no additional steps needed to make your wireless network work with a handheld.

## The handheld connection

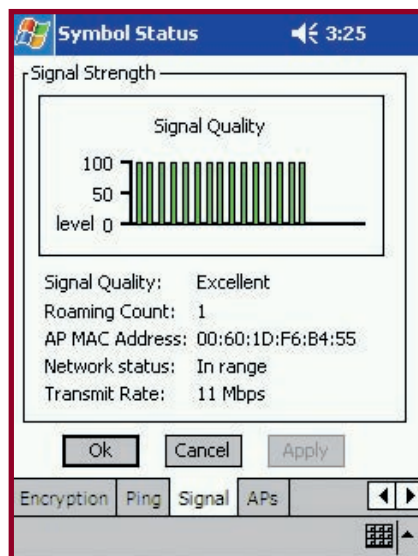
There is currently only one handheld on the market with a Wi-Fi radio unit built in: the Pocket PC 2002 Toshiba e740-WF (see review on page 48), though most other modern handhelds can have the facility added via a plug-in card, jacket or 'sled'.

### Palm OS

Although no Palm OS devices are available with Wi-Fi built-in at present, the facility is available via slip-on Xircom Wi-Fi sleds ([www.intel.com/network/connectivity](http://www.intel.com/network/connectivity)), which are currently available for Palm m500 series and m125 models. The forthcoming Sony NX70V (see page 4) will be the first Palm OS device with a dedicated slot for a (proprietary) wireless LAN card. A Wi-Fi SD (Secure Digital) card is due for release next year, and this is likely to work with any Palm OS or Pocket PC device with an SDIO slot.

### Pocket PC

Hooking up to a wireless network with a Toshiba e740-WF takes a matter of seconds. Just switch on the wireless unit in the handheld, and the device should



*Making a Wi-Fi connection using the Symbol SPS3000 jacket on a Compaq iPAQ handheld*

'see' your wireless network right away. If your network is using server-assigned (DHCP) IP addresses then there's no requirement to even set up any of the IP address details in the 'Network Adapters' section of the 'Settings' screen.

If you're using a Compaq iPAQ, then Symbol's excellent SPS3000 WLAN jacket ([www.symbol.com](http://www.symbol.com)) adds quite a lot of bulk to the unit, but is still comfortable to hold, is easy to configure, and has its own battery pack to maximise available connection time.

A number of CF (CompactFlash) and PC (PCMCIA) Card-based Wi-Fi units are available, designed primarily for laptop computers. Some of these will also work in any Pocket PC with a suitable expansion capability, such as the slip-on CF and PC card jackets available for the Compaq iPAQ range. Devices with CF expansion slots built-in, such as models from Toshiba, HP and Casio should also work. Pocket PC-compatible Wi-Fi cards include the Symbol Wireless Networker CompactFlash ([www.symbol.com](http://www.symbol.com)), and the Compaq Wireless LAN PC Card ([www.thenewhp.com](http://www.thenewhp.com))

### **Psion and Symbian**

Wi-Fi compatibility for Psion and current Symbian-based devices is currently limited to the Psion netBook. The latest netBook operating system upgrade (see page 7) claims to support

plug-in PC Card Wi-Fi adaptors from Lucent ([www.lucent.com](http://www.lucent.com)) and Cisco ([www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)).

## **Software requirements**

As with almost any computer technology, it's necessary to have suitable 'driver' software in order to use it on your device. Any Wi-Fi unit designed specifically for your model of handheld will of course work without problems, but if buying a Wi-Fi card that's designed for laptop computers, it won't work with your PDA unless the specifications specifically say so.

## **Desktop options**

If you'd like to set up Wi-Fi to work between your handheld computer and desktop computer or home-based network, the Wi-Fi Alliance web site ([www.weca.net](http://www.weca.net)) is a superb source of information. It deals primarily with the desktop/laptop computer side of things rather than handhelds but, in conjunction with this article, should give you most of the information you need to get up and running.

Hardware requirements will depend upon whether you're running a standalone desktop computer or a network, but connectivity for the simplest desktop setups can cost as little as £100-200.



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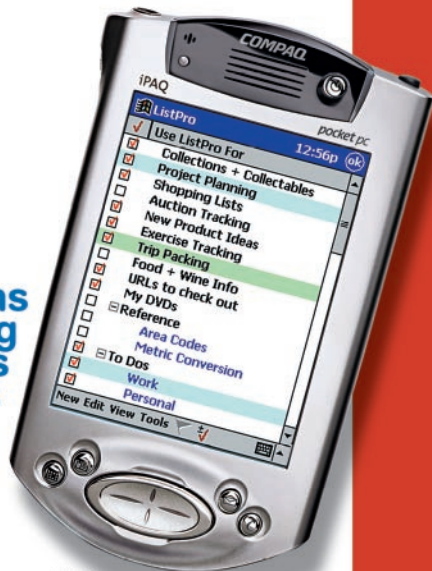
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*Palmtop User*

# Memory to THE MAX

*Paul Nelson looks at the ins and outs of managing your handheld's memory and storage space*

**J**ust as most car drivers have no interest in vehicle mechanics, the average computer user rightly has little desire to understand the detailed inner workings of his or her hardware. Whereas casual users can usually manage without any knowledge of how their handheld's memory and storage devices work, most of us will get more from our PDAs with a basic understanding of at least what add-on cards can and can't be used for.

## Internal and external

There are some important and fundamental differences between the way internal memory and add-on storage devices work on handheld computers, as opposed to desktop computers. On the desktop there's a clear distinction between internal (RAM) memory and data storage—which normally takes the form of a hard disk. Internal memory is used purely as 'working space' for running applications, and is completely cleared whenever the computer is switched off. All permanent data is

written to the hard disk, which retains its contents even when the power source is removed.

Because the memory and storage requirements of handhelds are inherently more modest, it's practical for basic devices to store everything in internal memory, which can remain powered and thus retain all its data indefinitely, even when the handheld is 'turned off', provided that the unit's battery isn't allowed to discharge completely. This removes the need for relatively expensive expansion slots to accommodate external data storage. It also helps to shield users from the complexity of the desktop-like filing system that's needed to manage the process of copying and moving files between internal memory and a storage card.

This simple approach has been fine for entry level handhelds in the past, but as users' storage requirements have grown, with the need for multimedia and access to electronic books, encyclopaedias, street maps and giant databases, it has become impractical to rely on battery-powered memory alone. As a result, those of us with more ambitious

requirements will need to add plug-in storage cards to our handhelds, using whatever type is supported by our particular model. Let's look at each platform in turn.

## The Palm OS way

Palm OS handhelds originally had no support for expansion, initially using a tiny 128K of memory for both working space and data storage. Nowadays, most devices come with 16MB, which, due to the impressive efficiency of Palm OS (which is exceptionally frugal with resources), offers ample space for the average user.

However, if you've loaded lots of programs and files onto your Palm OS handheld and are getting down to your last few hundred kilobytes of space, then it's time to either archive or delete some of your less important items, or invest in a storage card. Regardless of whether your handheld uses SD (Secure Digital), MMC (MultiMedia Card), Memory Stick or CF (CompactFlash), they all use Palm's VFS (Virtual Filing System) system to access and handle files.

Unfortunately, the VFS system isn't as well integrated into the operating system as it might be. Although a number of programs now allow their data files to be stored directly onto storage cards, a little effort is required in order to store and run applications directly from cards. Given that applications (.prc files) tend to be quite large, moving these from internal memory to card storage is likely to offer the best way to clear out valuable memory space.

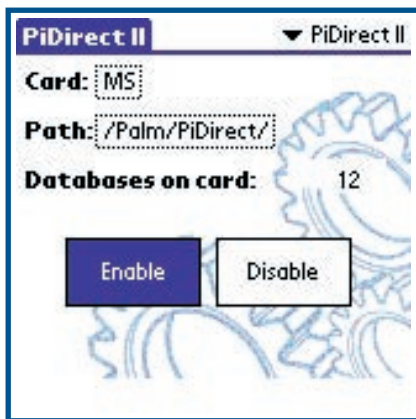


***MegaLauncher (VIP)—one of several program launchers that can run apps from storage cards***

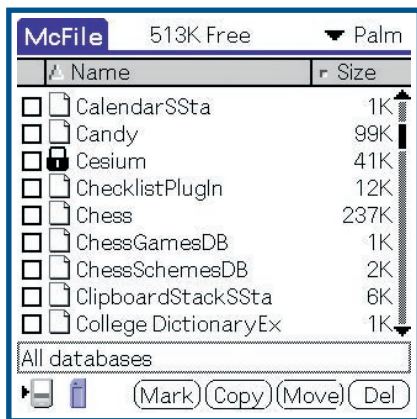
## Palm workarounds

Without specific add-on software, there's only one way to make your programs run from an expansion card. First, you need to use 'Apps|Copy' to copy the programs onto the default folder on the card. Secondly, remember to delete the original from internal memory afterwards using 'Apps|Delete'. Next, go into the Apps screen and choose the 'Card' category from the drop down list at the top right of the screen. Finally, tap on the relevant program icon to launch it.

Unless the program is very small, it will take several seconds to launch, as current versions of Palm OS can't execute applications directly from an expansion card. So, the operating system has to copy the *entire* program from the card to internal memory and run it from there—it's the copying process that takes the time. When you've finished using the program, the operating system will automatically delete the RAM-based copy in order to free up space. Apart from the time



*PiDirect II allows Palm OS users to launch applications directly from a storage card*



*McFile, one of several excellent third party file management programs for Palm OS*

factor, the other nuisance is that you can't run a program that's too big to fit into the available free memory space at that time.

A number of third party program launchers, such as **Launch 'Em** (\$15, from [www.synsolutions.com](http://www.synsolutions.com)), **MegaLauncher (VIP)** (\$15, from [www.megasoft2000.com](http://www.megasoft2000.com)) and **SilverScreen** (\$25, from [www.pocketsensei.com](http://www.pocketsensei.com)) simplify the process described above, by adding a menu command or the ability to drag-and-drop program icons to move applications from internal memory to storage card and vice versa. There's still the time delay as each program is loaded into memory and executed, but at least the file management is made easier.

If you've got a lot of big programs that you'd like to clear out of internal memory to free up space, but don't want the long wait for them to launch, there are a few programs available that let you assign one folder on the expansion card to

hold your applications. This folder is made to appear like normal internal memory, and your applications will then miraculously appear in your normal launcher screens and will run directly from the card. **PiDirect II** (\$30, from [www.pitech.com](http://www.pitech.com)) works exceptionally well, and **PowerRUN** (\$15, from [simple-palm.com](http://simple-palm.com)) and **MSMount** (free, from [www.geocities.com/nagamatu](http://www.geocities.com/nagamatu) or [www.palmgear.com](http://www.palmgear.com)) are also worth a look. A few programs refuse to run in this way, but the vast majority work fine.

Something that was never really necessary before the advent of plug-in storage cards, a number of file manager programs are now available for Palm OS, and some of these have the ability to copy and launch card-based programs directly, in a similar manner to Launch 'Em, etc. Good candidates include **McFile** (\$12, from [www.jade.dti.ne.jp/~imazeki/palm](http://www.jade.dti.ne.jp/~imazeki/palm) or [www.handango.com](http://www.handango.com)), **FilePoint/ FilePoint Pro** (\$30/\$50, from [www.bachmannsoftware.com](http://www.bachmannsoftware.com)), **ProFile**



(\$20, from [www.proporta.com](http://www.proporta.com)), **FileZ** (free, from [nosleepsoftware.sourceforge.net](http://nosleepsoftware.sourceforge.net)) and **FileMan** (\$10, from [www.bitsnbolts.com](http://www.bitsnbolts.com)). Some of these products include useful additional features, such as backup and restore between internal memory and storage cards, file encryption and the ability to manage files from your PC desktop.

## Springboards

If you're using a handheld with Hand-spring's proprietary Springboard Module expansion then almost all programs will run quite happily from the module. Data files and other support files are more temperamental though, and should always be kept in internal memory. The best scheme is to keep some or all of your main program files (usually the biggest files anyway) on Springboard, and everything else in internal memory. Any programs that cause the system to crash when run from the Springboard module can simply be copied back to internal memory to avoid problems.

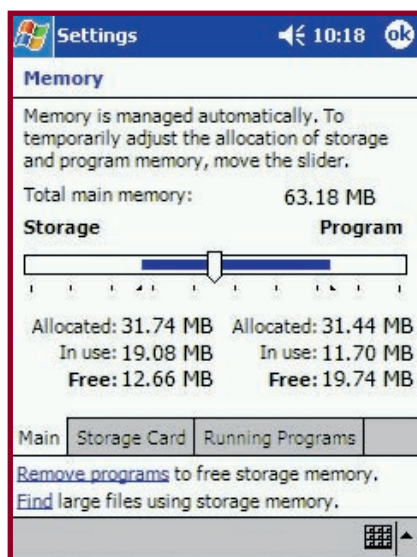
## Pocket PC memory

Current Pocket PC 2002 devices are supplied with either 32MB or 64MB of memory. As with Palm OS, this is intended for both working memory and storage. By default, the operating system allocates half of the total amount to storage space for programs and files, and the other half as working space for running programs. It's possible to temporarily readjust this allocation from the 'Memory' option under 'Settings', but the operating system will do this

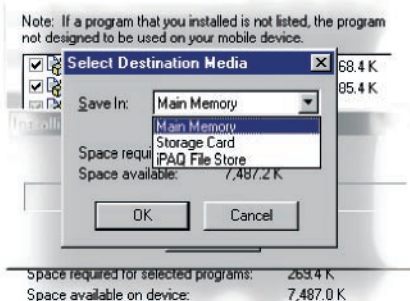
automatically as far as it is able, in order to prevent either from running out.

If you need to increase the storage capacity on a Pocket PC then the process is fairly straightforward: most programs can be installed onto storage card rather than internal memory, simply by selecting the card as the installation location from within Windows. Data files can also be stored on cards, by making use of a 'My Documents' folder where necessary, as used with internal memory.

If your Pocket PC has an area of flash memory storage, such as the Compaq iPAQ's 'iPAQ File Store', then this will appear as a third option when installing programs. This is even more secure than a storage card, so is a good place to keep important programs and files.



*Pocket PC 2002 always tries to allocate internal memory space automatically*



### **Selecting a suitable location to install files for Pocket PC**

It's worth noting that a handful of Pocket PC applications either refuse to work directly from storage cards (and/or flash memory), or exhibit strange behaviour, such as running very slowly. If you have an application that's not running smoothly, try deinstalling and then reinstalling into internal memory.

Unlike Palm OS version 4.x and earlier (which closes everything but the current foreground application), Pocket PCs are able to run several applications simultaneously, which requires considerably more free internal memory—at least if you're planning to run a lot of applications. Therefore, the most efficient way to work is to keep as much as possible stored on an expansion card, which ensures that as much memory space as possible is kept free for running programs.

Although Pocket PC's built-in File Explorer is adequate for basic file management tasks, third party alternatives (see page 120) are available to add many useful features. If you're already well acquainted with the way your Windows PC's files are arranged, you'll

find the Pocket PC filing system very familiar, right down to the 'Windows', 'Program Files' and 'My Documents' folders, and even a (file) Registry.

The Pocket PC filing system is far more complex than Palm OS' simple and elegant system but, as with Windows PCs, the novice user can usually rely on the largely-automated installation/deinstallation process to take care of things.

It's important to be aware that even when choosing to install new software onto a storage card, some associated support files will almost invariably be put into internal memory during the setup process. Unless you're completely sure what you're doing, don't try moving files around manually, as this will often cause programs to stop working.

## **Psion and Nokia**

Symbian-based handhelds use a similar (though slightly more straightforward) file and folder structure to Pocket PC devices, and internal memory is similarly used for both storage and running programs. Because Psions use the most sophisticated multi-tasking system of any handheld, allowing literally dozens of programs and files to be open and running at once, it makes sense to store as much as possible on storage card rather than internal memory, except with the Psion Revo, which has no card slot.

The Psion System screen provides all that's necessary to manage files effectively, and the File Manager application supplied with 92xx communicators is quite adequate.

The Nokia 92xx range uses two kinds of internal memory (aside from ROM, which Nokia calls 'Application memory').

The original Nokia 9210 has 4MB of 'Device memory' (also referred to as 'User memory'—the 'C' drive), whereas the 9210i has 16MB. Both have 8MB of SD-RAM (this is the 'working memory', that's used for running programs, which

Nokia refers to as 'Execution memory'), but the 9210i has optimised system software, which leaves almost 2MB more RAM free. Nokia users will find lack of this memory a frequent limitation when trying to keep several applications running at once, something that unfortunately can't be alleviated by moving files to storage card.

## Backup shocker!

Many novice Palm OS and Pocket PC users don't realise that the contents of plug-in storage devices *don't* get copied to their desktop during the normal backup process.

Palm OS users can use **Backup Buddy for Windows** (\$30, from [www.bluenomad.com](http://www.bluenomad.com)) to make full backups of expansion card contents, and recent Sony devices are bundled with a card reader application. Otherwise, the easiest option is to invest in a dedicated card reader, obtainable from all major computer suppliers for all storage card types (except for Handspring Springboard modules). They generally plug into your desktop computer via a standard USB port, operating just like any other disk drive.

Storage cards in Psion and Nokia devices will automatically be backed up by either PsiWin or PC Suite.

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# Getting to grips with HanDBase 3

*In the first part of a new series, Josephine Doran presents a beginners guide to using this powerful database application for both Palm OS and Pocket PC*

**M**ost of us have at least one use for a dedicated database application, be it to store details of a CD or DVD collection, or to log details of business sales transactions. Whereas many of these tasks can also be achieved using alternatives such as spreadsheets or list manager programs, a good database application usually offers better flexibility, easier data entry, and the ability to summarize and create reports as required.

## Why HanDBase?

Very close to the top of the list in terms of functionality and flexibility, DDH Software's HanDBase product is perhaps the most mature of all Palm database solutions, and is now available for Pocket PC as well. The latest version (3.0) boasts a good range of field types and full relational capabilities, together with both PC and Macintosh desktop companion programs. There are also a number of other tools, available sepa-

ately, for exchanging data with desktop databases.

There are certainly plenty of database alternatives for both Palm OS and Pocket PC that are easier to master, but by taking a little time to learn a program such as HanDBase, you'll reap a number of benefits:

- ▶ As you spend more time working with data and find your needs expanding, HanDBase should have enough power to satisfy those needs.
- ▶ If you need to exchange HanDBase data with PC or Macintosh computers or between Palm OS and Pocket PC then all the necessary tools are available as you need them.
- ▶ To save time and effort, there are more than 1000 pre-written database templates available from the HanDBase web site. These cover a huge range of topics and, even if none of them quite suits your needs, you may be able to use one as the basis for your own files, simply modifying selected parts as necessary.



## HandBase versions

So, let's assume that you're a novice when it comes to creating databases, you've got yourself a copy of HandBase 3.0 (you can download an evaluation copy from [www.ddhsoftware.com](http://www.ddhsoftware.com) and use it for free for 30 days), and you're keen to get started.

Note that version 3.0 of the product is currently available in three packages: HandBase Plus, HandBase Pro and HandBase Enterprise. HandBase Plus (\$30) provides all that's needed for use on a single handheld device, while the 'Pro' version (\$40) most importantly adds a Windows PC component to customise how each database 'form' appears on the handheld screen. This is a powerful new feature that makes HandBase much more pleasant to use, so we'll be looking at this component in the near future. In the meantime, if you're planning to purchase HandBase then this feature alone is well worth the extra \$10 asking price.

HandBase Enterprise (\$100) adds support for ODBC database connectivity, a feature that we'll look at briefly towards the end of this series.

## Jargon busting

If you're worried about database jargon such as 'relational links', 'tables', 'fields' and 'records', don't worry, as we'll look at all these in turn, as they become relevant to the series.

## A Quick start

To get you started and to show just how easy it is to set up a fairly rudimentary

database in HandBase, we'll create a file to catalog your CD collection. This very basic template can easily be adapted to store details of any other kind of collection, such as DVDs, books, stamps, and so on.

First of all, launch the HandBase application on your Palm OS or Pocket PC handheld, whereby you'll be presented with a list of any existing databases, and the means to open, beam, delete and otherwise manipulate them. This is HandBase's main 'control centre' from where you'll access every database file. For now, if you're running Palm OS just tap the 'New' button at the bottom of the screen to create our new database, or if you're using a Pocket PC, select 'New' from the 'File' menu.

If you're running Palm OS, you'll then be presented with the 'General Settings' screen. On Pocket PC, just tap the 'General' icon from the 'Properties' screen. Before proceeding, enter a suitable name for your database in the resulting screen. This can be up to 19 characters long, including spaces if you wish. Fill this name in now, with "CD collection" or something similar.

## Adding fields

The next step is to add the necessary *fields* to our database. 'Field' is the most fundamental word in database jargon, but it simply refers to each individual heading under which we'll store a single item of data for each entry. For example, if you go into your handheld's address book and go to add a new entry, all of the headings, such as 'Last name', 'Title', 'Fax', 'Address' and 'Country' are

fields. Your address book is of course a database in its own right, though most of it can't be customised to your own preferences.

Before starting work on most databases, it's a good idea to sit down with a pen and paper first, and jot down the various field headings you'll want to add, together with details of the different types of information you'll be storing under each one. As you get to create more complex databases, they'll need more detailed planning before you start entering field details onto your handheld, to ensure that everything works as expected and that you can more easily keep track of large numbers of fields, database links, and so on. Thankfully, HanDBase is quite forgiving, so if you make a mistake and want to rename, rearrange, add, delete or otherwise

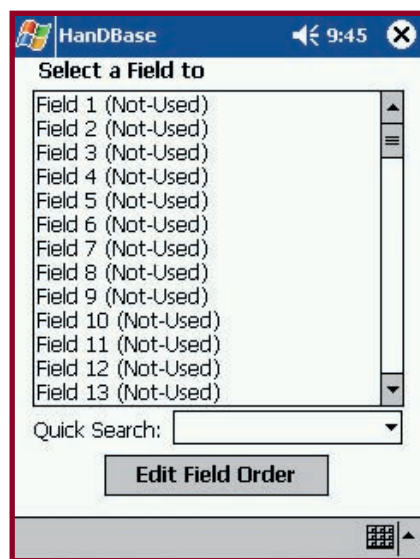
tweak the fields at a later stage, it's made quite easy for you.

For our CD database, we'll set up only four fields to begin with. The first for the title of each CD, a second for the name of the artist or composer, a third to give each disk a category (rock, jazz, classical, etc.) and a fourth to note down the total running time of each disk.

With Palm OS, you'll be taken straight to the 'Edit Fields' screen after entering the database name. With Pocket PC, tap the 'Fields' icon from the 'Properties' screen that will appear once again.

To set up the first field, just tap on 'Field 1' in the big window that appears on screen. The next step is to give the field a name, so enter the word "Title" into the 'Field Name' line, then tap on the 'Field Type' drop down menu beneath it. This gives a total of 18 field types to choose from, depending upon the kind of data you want to store under that particular field name. In the next instalment we'll look at most of the other field types, but for now choose the 'Text' option from the list.

Once the field type is selected, you'll always be presented with a screen showing all the various options associated with that field, controlling how it looks, prints, and how it interacts with other fields in the database. Again, we'll look at the innards of this in a subsequent instalment, but for now you can leave everything at the default settings. The only really important thing to note at this stage is that by leaving the 'Max Characters' line set at 40, you won't be able to enter disk titles longer than 40 characters in length, which should be



*Entering new fields...*

enough. If you need to increase this value later then it's easy to do, even after you've started adding entries to your database. For now, just tap the 'OK' button to save your settings for the first field.

This will take you back to the previous screen, with the new title filled in, ready to add more fields. Our second field is 'Artist', another plain text field, so go ahead and tap on 'Field 2', enter "Artist" as the field name, and set the Field type as 'Text', exactly as before. Finally, tap 'OK' to save the changes and go back to the field editing screen.

For the third field, 'Category', we could of course use a third plain text field, and enter the category every time we create a new database entry. Part of the beauty of a custom database is the ability to automate repetitive tasks though, so we'll set up a 'Pop-up' field, from which we can select from a pre-set list of categories each time we add a new entry.

To do this, tap on 'Field 3', name it as "Category", and set the Field Type as 'Pop-up'. Leave all the other settings on the screen at their defaults for now, but tap on the 'Edit Popups' button near the bottom of the screen. From the resulting screen, we'll enter the names of the pre-set categories we want to appear in this particular field.

To enter these multiple-choice items, tap on 'New' and enter the text of the first option, say "Rock". Tap 'OK' to save this entry, then repeat the procedure for every other item you'd like to add. Once you've finished, tap 'OK' once more to take you back to the 'Edit Field' screen,

then again to jump back to the main field list.

For our fourth and last field, we'll enter the total playing time, in minutes. Once again, it's quite possible to enter this as a simple text field, but by doing so there would be nothing to stop us from accidentally entering letters rather than numbers. Also, by formatting the entry as numbers rather than alphabetic text, we can perform mathematical functions on the numbers, such as adding up the time field for each database entry to give us a total playing time for all disks.

So for the fourth field, tap on 'Field 4', enter "Time" as the name, and set the 'Field Type' as 'Integer'. 'Integer' simply means 'whole number', so it won't allow decimal fractions. This is fine if you're happy always to enter the time to the nearest number of whole minutes, but if you wanted to enter the exact time in minutes and seconds, you'd have to take a slightly different approach, which we'll look at next time around.

After going back to the field list, a final tap on 'OK' will take us back to the 'Properties' screen, with a further tap to go straight into the CD collection database, ready to start adding some entries.

## Adding entries

To start adding entries, or 'records' as they're known in database jargon, tap the 'New' icon at the bottom of the screen if using Palm OS, or tap on the small white page icon at the bottom of the screen if using Pocket PC. We'll look at this in much more detail in the next instalment.

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# A desktop on your palmtop

*Pete Sipple shows you how to control your PC remotely from a Psion, Nokia, Palm OS or Pocket PC handheld*

**T**he fact that you're reading this magazine means that you already appreciate just how useful having a handheld computer with you can be. Your diary, address book, emails, documents and databases are close at hand when you need them. But what about the files on your PC at home or at the office? The files you forgot to synchronize over, or the data on the company Intranet that you can't carry with you?

You may be surprised to know that it's possible for your handheld computer to access your larger desktop machine by remote control.

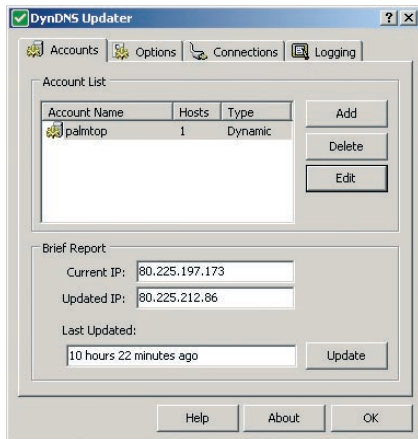
## What do you need?

To access your desktop computer remotely, you'll need an Internet connection for your handheld device. In the case of the Nokia 9210, Handspring Treo or Pocket PC-powered phones such as the O<sub>2</sub> XDA, this capability is of course built-in. Otherwise, a mobile phone with an infrared or Bluetooth modem, or a desktop modem and an appropriate cable connection will suffice.

You'll also need some additional software. There are a few options here, all working on pretty much the same concept: that of *Server* and *Client*. Server software sits on your desktop, watching for calls from your mobile device. When the palmtop's Client makes a call, the Server handles security by asking for the pre-defined user password, then deals with requests from the Client, transmitting the desktop screen data back to the mobile device. Once you've made the connection, you can then navigate around your PC screen from your palmtop, and your keypresses and stylus taps are mirrored on the PC, allowing you to run applications, open files and behave as if you were in front of the machine itself, even though you could be on the other side of the world.

## How does it work?

Any computer that connects to the Internet will have a specific *IP* address assigned to it that allows it to be identified. Your desktop's IP address will look something like '192.12.255.0', and this will be either *static* or *dynamic*, depending on your Internet Service Provider. Static addresses are more



### Using DynDNS Updater

useful if you're looking to access your machine remotely, as the IP address doesn't change. There are ways to ascertain your IP address. The easiest is to go to [www.whatsmyipaddress.com](http://www.whatsmyipaddress.com), a web site that simply reports your address back to you.

If your desktop's IP address is assigned dynamically (i.e. it changes each time you make a connection), then things get more complicated. If you're trying to control your PC remotely, and its address has changed, your remote control software won't know where to find it. Fortunately, there is a solution that involves getting yourself what's known as a *DNS (Domain Name System) hostname*. A hostname, such as *mypc.webservice.net* doesn't change, but the IP address that it points to can. By signing up to a free service at [www.dyndns.org](http://www.dyndns.org), you can get your own DNS hostname on one of a selection of worldwide servers. Then, by installing DNS updating software on your PC (such as DynDNS from [www.kana.homeip.net](http://www.kana.homeip.net)), when your

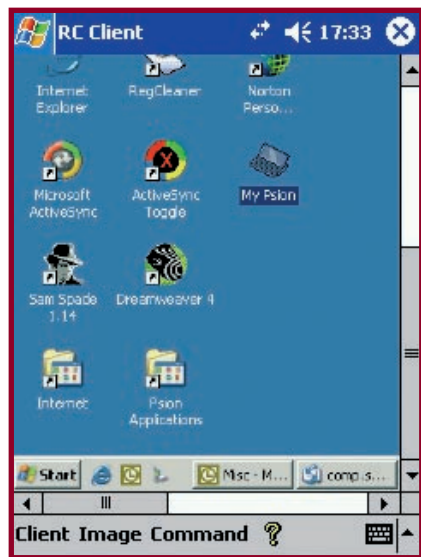
PC connects to the Internet, your DNS details are updated to include your current IP address. The practical upshot is that your hostname can be used to find out your PC's IP address from anywhere in the world, as long as the PC is online.

There are several software solutions currently available that allow remote access to any Windows PC that has an always-on Internet connection. Here are the main contenders:

### Remote Control

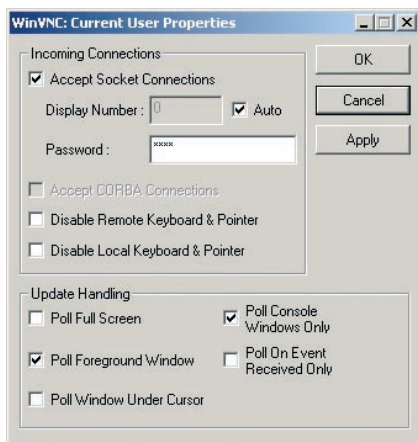
The server software for Bitween's Remote Control runs on Windows 95, 98, ME, XP, NT and 2000, and there are clients available for Palm OS, Pocket PC, the Nokia 9210 series and the forthcoming SonyEricsson P800 smartphone.

This powerful solution supports multiple users, port assignment for use when



### Browsing the PC desktop with Remote Control

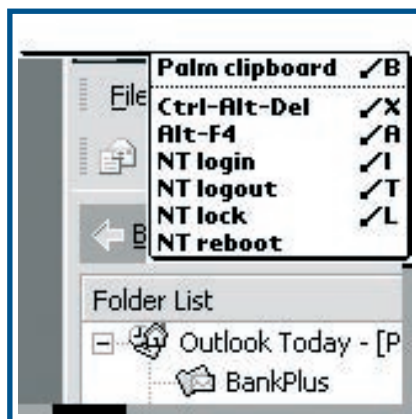




**Server settings in PalmVNC**

accessing a PC through a firewall, the Ctrl-Alt-Delete keypress combination and screen zooming. It makes use of data compression for faster screen rendering, and supports greyscale, 16 and 256 colour modes. Of all the packages tested here, this not only supported the widest range of devices, but had the most exhaustive feature set and ran at an impressive speed, even over a GSM mobile phone connection. It's also the most expensive, priced at \$50.

A version for ER5 (Psion Series 5mx and the Revo family) is detailed on the Bitween web site ([www.bitween.com](http://www.bitween.com)), but sadly the ER5 product is no longer

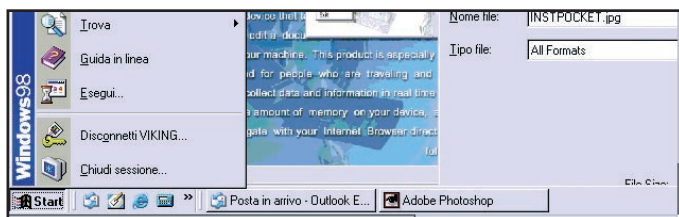


**Navigating the desktop with PalmVNC**

## PalmVNC

Harakan Software's PalmVNC works in much the same way as Bitween's Remote Control, requiring a software module to be running on the PC as well as the Palm device. The PC application is called WinVNC, runs under Windows 95, 98, NT 4.0, 2000 and XP, and offers a number of configuration options, either from the menu or via the Windows command line.

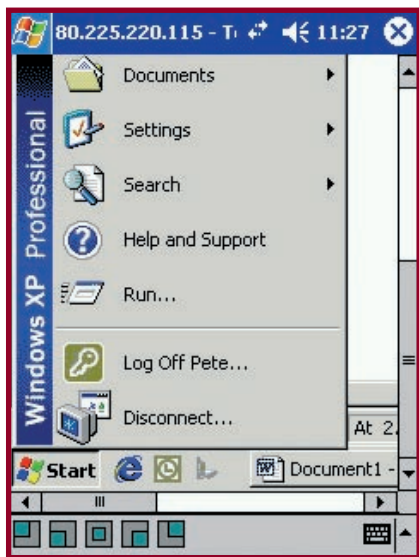
At the Palm end, the software is described as 'Ultra-thin', using less than 40K of RAM. Image scaling is done at the PC end, to reduce the length of time it takes to refresh the screen.



**Bitween's Remote Control running on a Nokia 9210**

supported nor available.





**Terminal Services Client in action**

PalmVNC supports menu commands for common Windows keypresses such as 'Ctrl-Alt-Delete' or 'Alt-F4' to close a window, plus NT Logon, Logoff and Reboot commands. Zoom is handled with menu options for 1:1, 1:2, 1:3 and 1:4 ratios, as well as the ability to view the entire PC desktop on the Palm screen.

PalmVNC is completely free (from [www.harakan.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.harakan.btinternet.co.uk)), and the developers have even made the source code available.

## Terminal Services

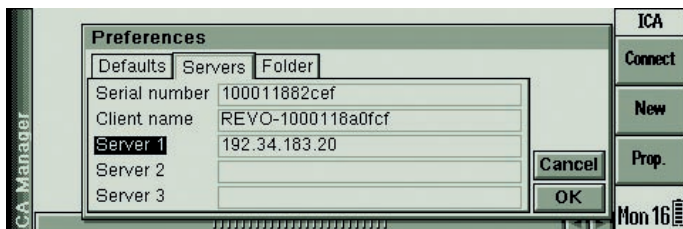
Pocket PC 2002 comes with a free remote control client, Terminal Services. If you're using Windows XP Professional, support for remote control is built-in (Right-click on the 'My computer' icon and look at the 'Remote' tab), which means that controlling XP from your Pocket PC is painless, and you don't have to pay for additional software. Terminal Services can also provide access to Windows 2000 Server.

The Pocket PC Terminal Services Client is a little basic, but it does the job. Icons on the toolbar allow you to navigate to a specific part of the screen, such as the four corners or the centre. Features like screen zoom and the ability to send specific hotkey combinations to the PC aren't supported, but remote logon is handled very well and, once connected, the service is efficient and easy to use.

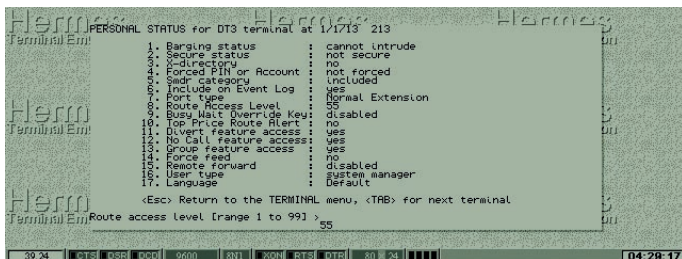
## Other connection options

As well as connection to Windows PC desktop and server computers, it's possible to remotely control other types of computer hardware from your PDA:

**Citrix** - If your organisation makes use of Citrix servers, then with a Citrix client on your handheld you can create, configure and launch connections to



**Citrix settings on a Psion Revo**



**Remote access  
from a Psion  
Series 5mx using  
Hermes**

your corporate Citrix server. Citrix ICA clients are available for several platforms, including Pocket PC and the Nokia 9210 series, from [www.citrix.com/download](http://www.citrix.com/download). A beta version of a Citrix client for Psion ER5 (Series 5mx and Revo) is available from [pda.tucows.com/epoc/communications5.htm](http://pda.tucows.com/epoc/communications5.htm). At the time of writing, there doesn't appear to be a Citrix client for Palm OS devices.

**Telnet** - Telnet software allows you to log into and control certain types of hardware, including UNIX machines, network routers and a wide range of IT equipment. There are several Telnet applications available for most platforms. Mochasoft

offers Telnet clients that can emulate a VT220 terminal for Pocket PC, Palm and Symbian OS ([www.mochasoft.dk/f\\_download.html](http://www.mochasoft.dk/f_download.html)), and an excellent free Telnet application, Hermes, is available for the Psion Series 5mx and Revo family ([www.iota.demon.co.uk/psion/hermes/hermes.html](http://www.iota.demon.co.uk/psion/hermes/hermes.html)).

## Further resources

If you're trying to make a remote connection to your PC then Webattack's list of freeware IP tools is useful, see [www.webattack.com/Freeware/network/fwip.shtml](http://www.webattack.com/Freeware/network/fwip.shtml).

## FREE Palmtop User offer from PocketManager

PocketManager is currently offering a FREE gift for all Palmtop User readers: an electronic Management Pocketbook which provides valuable business and personal guidance and can be downloaded onto your palmtop for instant reference wherever you are. The Pocketbook is available in printed format from Amazon and other bookstores for £7.00. Choose one of the following highly acclaimed books:

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# Worth a Read

John Woodthorpe takes a regular look at the ever-expanding world of electronic books



**T**he most common complaint voiced by those of us who read ebooks is that too few good, recently published, books are available in electronic form. So, when a famous publisher such as Penguin Books announces that it will be releasing titles in electronic format, it's an event to be warmly welcomed.

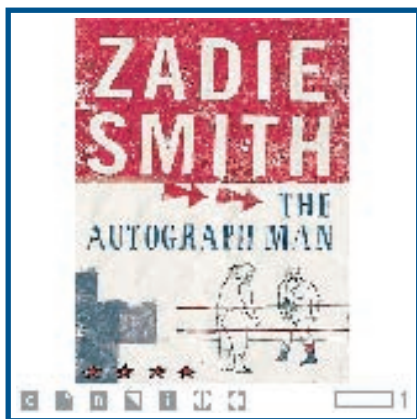
The initial announcement was last year, but the formats were then limited to Microsoft Reader and the Adobe Acrobat eBook Reader. Support has now been expanded, with the release of several titles in Palm Reader format. They include recent high-profile releases such as **Zadie Smith's** 'The Autograph Man', as well as some slightly older works in a selection of business, cookery and reference titles. These electronic versions are generally around 20 percent cheaper than Penguin's list prices for the equivalent print versions.

## Pick up a Penguin

Penguin claims to have over 100 titles currently available in ebook format, which includes all the Palm, Microsoft Reader and Adobe formats combined. The new Palm list currently includes around 30 titles, including a fair number

of Penguin's bestselling books, from **Nick Hornby's** 'About A Boy' and 'How To Be Good', to **Eric Schlosser's** 'Fast Food Nation' and **Allen Carr's** 'Easy Way To Stop Smoking'. The selection also incorporates novels from the Penguin Classics collection, as well as some bestselling business, reference and historical titles, including 'Up The Down Escalator' by **Charles Leadbeater**, 'The New Penguin Dictionary of Modern Quotations', **Ian Kershaw's** biographies of Hitler and 'The Blank Slate' by **Steven Pinker**.

I've just tried out 'The Autograph Man' and **John Cassidy's** 'Dot.con' from the aforementioned collection. The latter allowed me to make a direct comparison with the printed version, as I had recently bought the same title as a huge, 370 page, paperback that was simply impossible to carry around easily. I love paper books, but I do a lot of reading while travelling, and if picking out something for reading on a train or plane it must be easy for me to slip into a pocket. Ebooks are just so much more convenient than conventional books, in the same way that MP3 music players are more convenient than CD players.



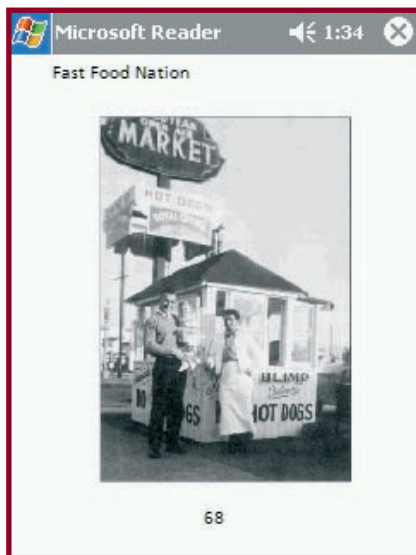
## The right reader

If you're thinking of buying any of the Penguin titles to read on your PDA, you'll need to be using either Microsoft's built-in Reader or the latest edition of the Palm Reader software (either the commercial 'Pro' version or the freeware version, from [www.palmdigitalmedia.com](http://www.palmdigitalmedia.com)), which are both now available for Pocket PC as well as Palm OS.

Note that only Palm OS and Pocket PC devices will work with these titles. Sadly, even the PDF format won't work on Psion/Symbian handhelds, as these encrypted books can only be used with the Adobe Ebook Reader.

## Images too

Part of the beauty of both Palm Reader and Microsoft Reader formats is that they make it possible to view any photos, illustrations and embellishing graphics that have been incorporated into the books. **Eric Schlosser's** 'Fast Food Nation' is a good example of this, with photos dotted between chapters. The



only real downside is that although the ebooks are cheaper than the *list* price of the paper versions, they can be more expensive than the shop price. That's certainly true of best sellers such as 'The Autograph Man', which tend to be heavily discounted by retailers.

On balance though, this move should be welcomed by both Palm OS and Pocket PC owners, since it extends the range of high quality books available to us. That applies to Windows and Macintosh users, since the free Adobe Ebook Reader and Palm Reader are now also available for those platforms. It's worth keeping an eye on the Penguin site as it develops, despite the fact that it currently isn't very easy to track down the books available in a particular format. Hopefully that too will change as more titles become available in all three formats.

Penguin ebooks are available from [www.penguin.co.uk/epenguin](http://www.penguin.co.uk/epenguin).



# On the NET

by Pete Sipple

Our regular look at what's happening online and where to point your browser

## Yahoo Messenger

Yahoo's Instant Messenger service recently stopped working for Pocket PC and Palm users, reportedly following a withdrawal of the service. Then, for no apparent reason, the service started up again, much to the relief of many online chat fans in the various PDA newsgroups. Apparently Palm users have had occasional problems getting beyond the 'friends' list—the trick appears to be

tap on the 'Home' button after you get signed in, then restart Yahoo Messenger. Welcome back!

[uk.mobile.yahoo.com/tutorials](http://uk.mobile.yahoo.com/tutorials)

## Campaign for pocket news

Newshounds will already know about **Google News**, the new service currently operating a public beta trial. For those who've yet to try it, this pioneering service at [news.google.com](http://news.google.com) is a searchable, up-to-the-minute log of worldwide news stories from over 4000 sources. Archives of 30 days worth of stories are available, and this resource really comes into its own when you're trying to find something topical that the standard search engines may not have picked up on yet.

Members of certain newsgroups are suggesting that users who'd like to see a version available for mobile devices should contact Google at their suggestions address of [news-feedback@google.com](mailto:news-feedback@google.com), with a message subject of "mobile version", asking for something similar to their mobile-optimised [www.google.com/ie](http://www.google.com/ie) service. If you'd like to see the service go mobile, let Google know...



### Your online top 10...

Thanks to all those who voted in last issue's On The Net online survey. Here are the top 10 web sites you voted for:

1. **Tucows** - software for all PDAs ([www.tucows.com](http://www.tucows.com))
2. **PalmGear** – all-round Palm OS site ([www.palmgear.com](http://www.palmgear.com))
3. **Handango** – software for all PDAs ([www.handango.com](http://www.handango.com))
4. **PDAGeek** – featured in the last issue ([www.pdag geek.com](http://www.pdag geek.com))
5. **PsionPlace** – Symbian software and chat ([www.psionplace.com](http://www.psionplace.com))
6. **VisorCentral** – Visor news and software ([www.visorcentral.com](http://www.visorcentral.com))
7. **PocketGear** - Pocket PC software ([www.pocketgear.com](http://www.pocketgear.com))
8. **Freewarepalm** – Palm OS software ([www.freewarepalm.com](http://www.freewarepalm.com))
9. **PocketPCThoughts** – daily news, views and rants for Pocket PC ([www.pocketpcthoughts.com](http://www.pocketpcthoughts.com))
10. **AllAboutER6** – for Symbian OS (ER6) powered communicators ([www.allabout er6.com](http://www.allabout er6.com))

Our online user survey is still running, and we're looking for your views. To take part, to vote for your favourite web site, and for links to the sites featured in this section, please visit On The Net Online at [www.filesaveas.com/otn.html](http://www.filesaveas.com/otn.html).

### Recent sightings

**Treo Tribute** - Owners of the Hand-spring Treo Palm OS communicator will certainly want to check out **TreoMB**, a site with a collection of pictures, reviews of Treo hardware and a very active discussion forum talking about topics like GPRS, text messaging, battery life and hands-free equipment. Interact at [www.treomb.com](http://www.treomb.com).

**It's a blast** - This collection of sites could well be one to watch. The parent site, **pdaBlast**, has a collection of sub-sites for Palm, Clié, Visor, Pocket PC, Symbian OS and Zaurus handhelds, with each platform having its own web address. The sites contain the usual hardware and software reviews, news headlines, and links to the latest software releases. They also have some rather quiet message boards, but they're categorised by machine, which might make them very attractive to new users looking for help on a specific model. [www.pdablast.com](http://www.pdablast.com).

**Psion File** - A recent addition to the Psion online community comes in the form of The Psion File. Aimed at those looking at getting into programming or looking for odds and ends not found on more mainstream Symbian OS sites, the site boasts oddities such as details of getting Linux, Perl and Python running on your Psion. [www.psionfile.co.uk](http://www.psionfile.co.uk).

# Hints & Tips

*Submit your hints and tips—every published entry wins TWO free issues added to your subscription!*

## Auto-off or Auto-lock

### Palm OS

After getting myself mightily confused on the issue with my Palm m500, it seems that in order for the 'Prefs | Stay on in cradle' option to work, you must also have 'Security | Auto Lock Handheld' set to 'Never' (under Palm OS 4.x, at least). You would have thought it made more sense for the former setting to overrule the latter, but it seems we're stuck with this behaviour—worth noting for anyone else who's wondered why these Preferences don't seem to work as they should.

*Vince Shuttleworth, Manchester*

## Clipping conflicts

### Palm OS

After installing Web Clipping from my Palm m515 CD, I experienced all kinds of crashes and HotSync failures. To cut a long story short, it turns out that the latest Web Clipping files are incompatible with older versions I had installed on my previous Palm Vx, which had been restored to my new m515 as part of the changeover to the new handheld.

There are two main tips to note here. Firstly, deleting the rogue library files required a 'warm' reset, which loads up the bare Palm Operating System with no hacks, patches or third party software extensions. Only then could the rogues be deleted using the free Z'Catalog utility (or similar) and a normal 'soft' reset. The warm reset should be an essential tool in your troubleshooting armoury.

Secondly, in much the same way as desktop operating systems sometimes need a complete 'wipe and rebuild' to clear out malfunctioning components,

Z'Catalog			
Name	Type	Creat	Size
PocketC	appl	PktC	43631
PrefMng Favor	data	SLmg	112
PrefMngr	appl	SLmg	15549
PrefsDBName	PREF	HdSM	339
PSLBackgamm	SvdG	PSGf	1344
QCWebBookm	BKMK	QCwb	649
rachel103small	DVGR	DTGP	31265
rachel211.PDB	DVGR	DTGP	54564
Reading	indx	TCIM	136
ReadingI	file	TCIM	295993
<input type="checkbox"/> Show ROM <input type="text" value="Filter"/>			

*Browsing applications, databases and modules, after a 'warm' reset, in Z'Catalog*



the same technique would have helped in my situation. 'Hard' resetting any handheld, sorting through the backup folder to remove any likely culprits and then restoring applications and databases, is always a powerful, if drastic, remedy.

*Dan Zikowski, New York, USA*

*Z'Catalog can be downloaded from [www.palmgear.com](http://www.palmgear.com), amongst others. On a Palm OS handheld, a 'warm' reset is done by holding down the Scroll Up button while using the reset pin. Don't release the button until the Palm OS logo appears - Ed.*

## Top Treo calling tips

### Palm OS

When making a voice call on the Handspring Treo communicators, the rocker switch (jog dial) will be under your right index finger or left thumb, depending on whether you're right or left-handed. Rocking the switch up or down increases

or decreases the earpiece volume as needed. And in a *really* noisy environment, it's sometimes useful to switch the Treo into speakerphone mode, which gives a louder range of volumes again.

To dial a number manually when in the default 'Speed dial' screen, you can save a button press or screen tap by simply typing the number required using the appropriate keyboard/number hybrid keys. The Treo starts by treating the keypresses as letters, but then switches automatically to numeric form once it can't find a match in your Contacts database.

Finally, watch out for the telephone component being switched off during a standard 'soft' reset, often required after installing a new module or application. It's all too easy to forget to switch the mobile phone part back on and so miss an important call.

*Diane Coleman, San Francisco, USA*

## Portable PDFs

### All handhelds

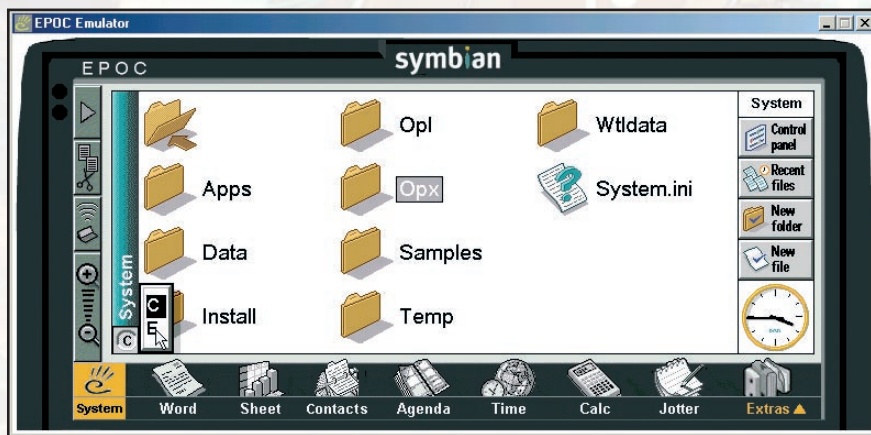
A helpful little tip for users who, while surfing on the move, come across an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) file that they need to access. Until your machine has a PDF reader loaded, you'd normally be out of luck, however, Adobe's web site ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) offers a couple of ways of extracting the text from PDF files via web sites. The service is offered for the benefit of blind and visually impaired users, as detailed at [access.adobe.com](http://access.adobe.com). As well as web-based conversion, they also offer PDF conversion by email.

*Dave Shapiro, Karachi, PAKISTAN*



*Adjusting call volume on a Handspring Treo 270 using the rocker switch*





*Working in the EPOC emulator, about to switch to a specially set-up 'E' disk*

## A virtual Psion

### Psion

The EPOC 'emulator' (actually part of the freely available EPOC Software Development Kits) is a very handy way of keeping a virtual Psion in your desktop PC. It's useful both for work on EPOC documents on the large screen and keyboard, and for accessing backed-up EPOC documents in the absence of a real Psion (perhaps while it's away for repair).

You can either copy files from your PsiWin backup folder into the emulator's \Epoc32\wins\C location or set up an environment variable (e.g. \_EPOC\_DRIVE\_P—see the emulator documentation) to map your PsiWin backups directly into disk 'drives' within the emulator. If all the copying around gets too much for you, note that the freeware EpocSync utility ([www.freepoc.org/EpocSync.htm](http://www.freepoc.org/EpocSync.htm)) can synchronize automatically between the documents in the emulator and those on your Psion.

The only (minor) drawback of using the virtual Psion is that some applications and all OPX program 'extensions' are written in C++ and compiled for the MARM chip in the real palmtop—these won't work under Windows. To get around this, you can often download 'WINS' (emulator) versions of applications and OPXes from the same third party web sites.

We recommend setting up a new emulator disk drive, 'E' (again using an environment variable) and loading all emulator-specific files into folders on this drive. When looking for applications, extensions and operating system modules, EPOC is hard-coded to search disk 'E', then 'D', then 'C', then its virtual ROM. Thus the WINS versions you install should be picked up first and should run correctly.

*Simon Long, Cambridge*

*The emulator is currently available for download at [partners.psiointeklogix.com/netpad-pdk/downloads.htm](http://partners.psiointeklogix.com/netpad-pdk/downloads.htm) - Ed.*



Hotmail access via WAP, on a Nokia 7650

## Hotmail on the move

### All handhelds/smartphones

Following on from your last issue's Q&A answer about using Hotmail on the move, your readers might be interested to know that you can access Hotmail over WAP from your mobile or smartphone. Just go to [www.mobile.msn.com/](http://www.mobile.msn.com/) from your WAP browser. The service can be a little intermittent, but when it's working, this is a great way of checking your mail.

Jessica Hall, Lund, SWEDEN

## Nokia 9210 resets

### Nokia

As it's so often necessary to soft reset the Nokia 9210 due to lack of memory, invest in a copy of Task Manager, from [www.psiloc.com](http://www.psiloc.com), which lets you do a reset without removing the battery.

Dennis Tandy, London



A brief tap to configure your Contact entries

## Contact display details

### Pocket PC

Take a look at your Pocket PC Contacts information and you will see a blue letter next to each contact on the right hand side of the screen. This letter tells you what information is being displayed for each individual: for example, 'f'=work fax, 'w'=work phone, 'h'=home phone and 'e'=email address. If a contact has multiple telephone numbers and email addresses, the default display will be the work telephone number (the size of the display prohibits other information from being viewed). However, this may not be the most useful information for some of your contacts.

You can easily change which details you wish to display next to each individual by tapping very *briefly* on the blue letter. This may take a bit of practice, but when

you get it right you will see a pop-up list that displays contact details (see screenshot on previous page). It is then just a matter of tapping on the line of information you wish to be displayed next to your contact. Of course, this brief tap also brings up all the person's contact details without having to open their full contact record.

*Dietmar Schneider, Krefeld, GERMANY*

## Specific spellings

### Pocket PC

If you'd like to speed up the process of spell checking in Pocket Word and Pocket Inbox, note that adding your own commonly-used words that are not in the built-in dictionary results in spell checking with fewer false alarms.

Words 'added' to the Pocket PC custom dictionary are stored in a simple text file called 'custom' (with no extension), in the Windows folder. You can't edit this directly, but you can copy it over to the PC via ActiveSync and edit it with a text editor such as Notepad. If you've already trained Microsoft Word on your PC with your common spellings, you can copy and paste from Word's custom dictionary (available via 'Tools | Options | Spelling | Dictionary | Edit') into the 'custom' text file, then copy the file back to the Pocket PC.

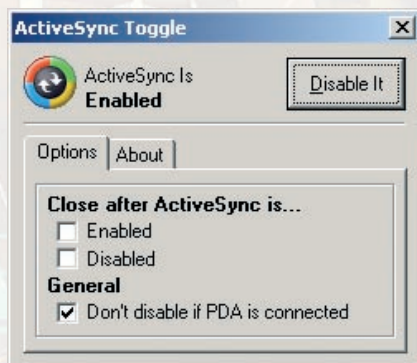
*Asad Krech, Manila, PHILLIPPINES*

## Annoyed by ActiveSync?

### Pocket PC

Pocket PC users frustrated by the lack of a 'Close' option in ActiveSync, might like to take a look at ActiveSync Toggle ([www.micrologics.co.uk/library/ast](http://www.micrologics.co.uk/library/ast)). This lets you close down ActiveSync when you're not using it (something Microsoft strangely never thought we'd want to do). It can also remove the registry entry, therefore preventing ActiveSync from starting up again next time you switch your computer on. Add this tiny, free program to your desktop to help keep ActiveSync under control.

*Allen Wright, Bolton, Lancashire*



**Taking control with ActiveSync toggle**



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## Get your handheld-related questions answered by our editorial panel...

### Annoying auto-complete

#### Palm OS

**Q** How do you correct the automatic typing that pops up when you're adding company names, towns and states in Address Book? I accidentally misspelled a word just once and the mistake continues to pop up as an unwanted suggestion.

*Diane Begley, Kansas City, Kansas, USA*



**About to delete the cities/towns auto-complete database**

**A** Your previous entries in these fields are stored in specific databases on the handheld. There's unfortunately no way to edit them, but it's easy enough to delete a database and start from scratch for that Address Book field. Using the freeware Z'Catalog (or a similar file manager utility), locate and remove any or all of AddressCitiesDB, AddressCompaniesDB, AddressCountriesDB, AddressStatesDB and AddressTitlesDB.

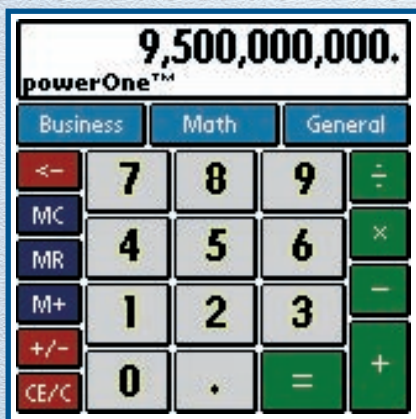
### Improved applications?

#### Palm OS

**Q** I currently have a Palm V, running OS 3.5.3, but I recently saw a device running Palm OS 4.1. I was delighted to see that Date Book apparently had a much improved week view, showing full event details. Can I get this version onto my Palm V? The other application I might want to replace is Calc, as the OS 4.1 version looks nicer.

*Jui Hsiang Tan, via the Internet*





*The free powerOne Personal calculator makes a good Calc replacement*

**A** The improved Date Book you saw was *not* part of OS 4.1 at all, but rather a third party application: either DateBk5 ([www.pimlicosoftware.com](http://www.pimlicosoftware.com)), an early version of which is supplied in all Handspring units, or Agendus ([www.iambic.com](http://www.iambic.com)), previously known as Action Names Date-book, which also has this week view.

It's true that Calc was given a facelift for OS 4.0, but there are a lot of superior freeware and shareware alternatives that can be assigned to the Calc icon using 'Prefs | Buttons'. For example, see the freeware 'powerOne Personal' at [www.infinitysw.com/free](http://www.infinitysw.com/free).

## Lotus Notes to go

### All handhelds

**Q** I use Lotus Notes a lot at work, particularly its email, calendar and to do list. How can I synchronize all this with my handheld?

M Kenington, Bucharest, ROMANIA

**A** Lotus Notes is probably administered by your company's IT department, so the rest of this answer is for them. There are currently three alternatives for keeping Notes and Palm OS in step: Cadenza mNotes ([www.commontime.com](http://www.commontime.com)), EasySync Pro ([www.lotus.com](http://www.lotus.com)) and Pylon Pro ([avantgo.com](http://avantgo.com)). mNotes and Pylon Pro are also available for Pocket PC.

## Communicator call breakup

### Palm OS and smartphones

**Q** A year ago, I bought a Handspring Visorphone (a phone module that slots into the back of most Visors), but was horribly disappointed by the way voice calls would break up at times. The opportunity came to upgrade to a Handspring Treo, but though voice calls are much better on the whole, I still get intermittent problems. Is this a generic problem when integrating a phone with a PDA?

Stefan Fergus, Birmingham, West Midlands

**A** We suspect that both units have been functioning properly—the most probable cause of your problems is poor GSM coverage in your area. The Visorphone was most susceptible to this as it only used one of the two UK GSM wavebands, but in our experience the Treo also suffers slightly in that it doesn't appear to be quite as sensitive as the very best modern, dedicated mobile phones. As you can verify yourself, one workaround is to use the Treo outdoors or near a window if possible—the more network signal, the better.



## Psion to Palm

### Palm OS / Psion

**Q** Having over 2000 entries in my old Psion address book, I'd like to import as much as possible into the Palm Desktop. I have access to both a Mac and a Windows PC. What do you recommend? The next issue is that the entries contain a lot of text information in the form of notes. Would this be a problem?

Nancy Kagan, Wilmington, Delaware, USA

**A** There are several ways to accomplish this, and it's difficult to recommend a single one without knowing which Psion application your old address book was kept in and which software is available to you on your desktop machines.

If it was a Contacts database and you have Outlook (or similar) installed on the desktop, it should be possible to synchronize first between the Psion and desktop, then again between desktop and handheld. Beaming entries individually is, of course, out of the question, given the number of entries you mention, but it may be a viable one-off solution for less well connected readers.

If you used Psion Data as your address book database, then exporting its information to a delimited text file and importing this directly into Palm Desktop usually works well, as the latter has an excellent configuration dialog for importing Address Book data. But yes, large amounts of text may well be a problem, especially if you used new-line characters within your Psion database fields.

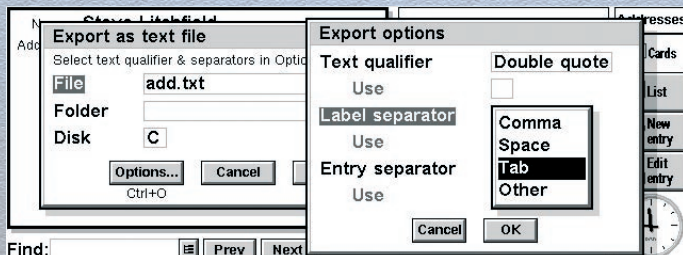
No two address books are laid out the same, and finding a solution will ultimately be down to a little trial and error. Before commencing experimentation of this sort, it's an extremely good idea to make a full backup of your Psion, in case something goes horribly wrong and your data gets duplicated, mangled or deleted.

There's also a freeware utility, C2F, which helps export Psion Contacts information to delimited text files—see [www.freepoc.org](http://www.freepoc.org) - Ed.

## How large can I go?

### Psion

**Q** Can you tell me the largest size of CompactFlash card I can use with my Psion Series 5mx palmtop? Psion's own web site says that they make



Exporting address information from Data on a Psion Series 5



them up to 20MB and “it is hoped larger ones will be available by the end of the century”—I can only assume their page is two years out of date! Another web site says that a 128MB CF card will not work with a 5mx, but doesn’t say why.

Cathy Roberts, Tenterden, Kent

**A** Provided you go for a ‘dual voltage’ CF card (most well-known brands already are), then any size at all will be fine. If in doubt, buy from a specialist Psion dealer.

*Take a little care when using such large cards under EPOC (Psion’s operating system), as there are cluster and file size issues that you should consider for optimum performance. We’ll cover this in more detail in a future article, but in the meantime look at [www.pscience5.net/Hints\\_Tips/Compact\\_Flash.htm](http://www.pscience5.net/Hints_Tips/Compact_Flash.htm) - Ed.*

## 9210 Not Found

### Nokia

**Q** I have a problem when sending SMS text messages from my Nokia 9210. All I get is an error saying ‘Not found’.

**A** We’ve heard of this problem on other 9210s, and although we don’t have the definitive answer, it appears to be the result of a bug in an early version of the 9210 operating system. Three solutions have been suggested by other users who’ve had the same problem:

1. Restore the files smssegst.dat and smsreast.dat (from \system\data) and schedules.dat (from \system\schedules) from a backup taken

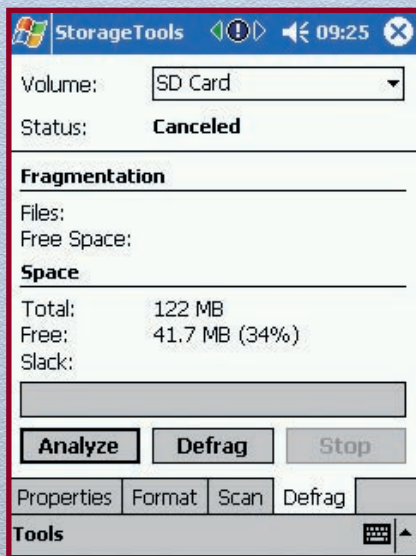
before the problem occurred, over the top of the current files.

2. Upgrade to the latest version of the operating system, at the time of writing, v4.13 (not for the 9210i) (you can check by typing \*#0000# into the front panel keypad). Your device will need formatting first, so back up all your data.
3. Rather drastic, but back up your machine, perform a hard reset, then restore your documents and applications (but not system files).

## Pocket PC disk utilities

### Psion / Pocket PC

**Q** I have recently changed from a Psion Series 5mx to a Packard Bell Pocket PC. I had a software suite called Essential Disk Utilities installed on



Checking expansion cards with Storage Tools



my Psion, and this enabled me to defragment my files and check the CF card for errors. How can I check the integrity of and defragment the Secure Digital card in my Pocket PC?

*Don Butcher, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire*

**A** There are third party applications for Pocket PC that work in a very similar manner to Essential Disk Utilities, and one of the best is Storage Tools ([www.softwinter.com](http://www.softwinter.com)). The free version allows you to format and check and repair file system errors on all common media types (including MultiMedia (MMC), Secure Digital (SD) and CompactFlash (CF) cards). However, if you want to defragment files on your card as well, you will need to purchase the commercial version, at \$15.

## Where's read-only?

### Pocket PC

**Q** I've recently purchased a Compaq iPAQ Pocket PC, and I am trying to find a way of marking files as 'read-only'. This was very easy on my Psion 5mx, but I cannot find out how to do it on the Compaq. Any ideas?

*Keith Pritchard, Birmingham, West Midlands*

**A** Pocket PCs do support the 'read-only' file attribute, but they don't provide a built-in means for users to change it. There are a few third party applications that can help though. PocketExplorer ([www.citadeldevelopment.com](http://www.citadeldevelopment.com)) is an excellent free file management application that allows full access to all of the file attributes. It also makes a superb replacement to

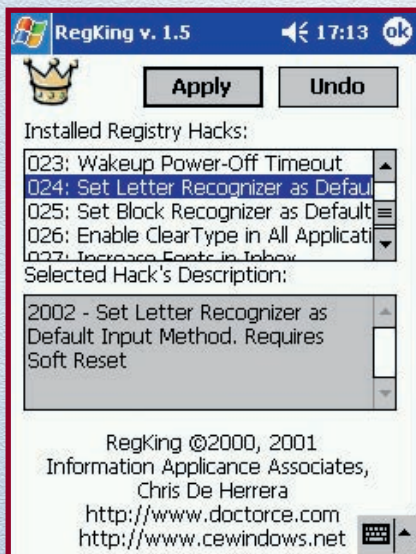


### Changing file attributes with PocketExplorer

Pocket PC's own File Explorer, adding features like expanding folders and drag-and-drop. For the ultimate file manager, try Resco File Explorer (\$15, from [www.resco-net.com](http://www.resco-net.com)), which adds advanced features such as file encryption, filtering, associations and a built-in file viewer.

If you connect your Pocket PC to your desktop with ActiveSync, then there is another, slightly more tedious solution. Connect your Pocket PC, then go to the PC's 'My Computer | Mobile device | My Pocket PC', and find the file you're looking for. Copy the file over to your PC, then, on the PC, right-click the file, select 'Properties' and tick or untick the file's 'Read only' attribute. It's then a simple matter of copying the file back, overwriting the original.





#### Setting Letter Recogniser as the default

## Default Recognizer

### Pocket PC

**Q** I tend to use Letter Recognizer almost exclusively for text entry on my Pocket PC. Is there any way of making this my default input method? The option in Settings doesn't seem to make any difference.

*Karen Meadley, Portsmouth, Hampshire*

**A** There is a way to achieve this, but it involves making a change to your Pocket PC's registry. You can do this with a Registry Editor tool such as Kilmist Registry Editor ([www.kilmist.com](http://www.kilmist.com)) or RegKing ([www.doctorce.com/regking.htm](http://www.doctorce.com/regking.htm)). The latter includes two built-in options to 'Set Letter Recognizer as Default' or 'Set Block Recognizer as Default'. Interestingly, you can make lots of

other little changes to how your Pocket PC works by tweaking the registry, although make sure you back up your machine carefully before attempting such changes. For details of the available tweaks, see [www.phm.lu/PocketPC/RegTweaks](http://www.phm.lu/PocketPC/RegTweaks).

## MIPS, ARM or SH3?

### Pocket PC

**Q** When I go to download Pocket PC software, I have to choose between ARM, MIPS and SH3 files? What do these mean, and what should I select for my iPAQ 3870?

*Todd Clifton, Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA*

**A** These terms represent the type of processor found inside Pocket PC devices. Application developers 'compile' their software for the different processor types, meaning there are often three versions of what appears to be the same program. For the iPAQ family, you need to choose ARM, which refers to the StrongARM processor used to power the iPAQ.

To check which processor your machine uses, take a look at the 'Start | Settings | System | About' screen.

You can find a list of the processor types used in various Pocket PC models at [www.pocketgamer.org/links/manufacturers.shtml](http://www.pocketgamer.org/links/manufacturers.shtml).



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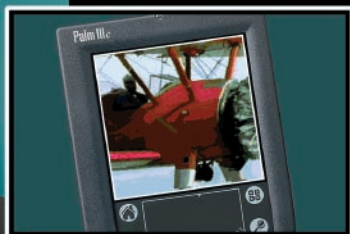
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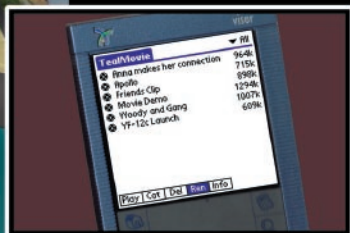


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	3c/mx/5	£5	£15	Money	SSD	£2	£10
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Psion IR Travel Modem	3c/mx/5	£30	£65	SOFTWARE - Series 5mx		We Buy	We Sell
PC Card Modem Adaptor	3a/3c/mx/5	£15	£45	5 Pack (games)	disk	£2	£10
Dacom Gold Card 14k	3a/c/mx/5	£10	£40	Allegro	disk	£2	£10
Dacom Gold Card 56k	3a/c/mx/5	£25	£60	Backgammon	CD	£10	£30
AC adaptor	5/5mx	£5	£14	Collins Dictionary	CD	£10	£25
Leather case		£2-5	£5-20	Chess	CD	£10	£30
Programming manual		£1	£6	Games Arcade	CD	£5	£15
Cyclone External Floppy	3c/mx/5	£30	£75	Money	CD	£10	£35
Palmtop GPS Sat receiver	5/5mx/7	£60	£140	Navigator	disk	£2	£10
Docking Station	5/5mx	£5	£15	Street Planner '99	disk	£5	£15
	Series 7	£20	£50	Other titles available!		£phone	£phone
Stylus	5/5mx	£1	£3				

**Terms and conditions:** All equipment supplied with 3 month guarantee. FREE carriage within UK for orders over £20. We only purchase items in full working order, without cosmetic damage. Buying prices apply to items with original boxes & manuals. Up to 20% discount may apply to equipment not meeting these standards. 3% surcharge applied to credit cards. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers subject to change without notice.

## EPOC Beds, Bucks, Herts User Group

For Psion users with Series 3/ Series 5/netpad/Revo/Siena/Symbian smartphones/  
Ericsson MC218

**Phone:** 07802 354759 (mobile) from 9am-10pm, or 01234 851895 from 9am-6pm

**Email:** [philiprutt@greasyfingers.demon.co.uk](mailto:philiprutt@greasyfingers.demon.co.uk)

45 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire MK42 7BT, ENGLAND

## HELP!

I am looking for an instruction manual for the "Southern Belle" steam engine simulator. It runs over the Spectrum emulator in the Psion Series 5. Please send any info to [juanm@grijalvo.com](mailto:juanm@grijalvo.com)



# Next issue...

## ***Planned for issue 3:***

- ▶ More new hardware on test, including new PDAs from Nokia, Palm, Sony, SonyEricsson, Toshiba, Fujitsu and Acer
- ▶ Is the built-in calendaring and contacts software on your handheld too underpowered? We look at supercharged alternatives for Palm OS, Pocket PC and Psion
- ▶ Easy when you know how—the definitive guide to exchanging data between Psion/Symbian, Palm and Pocket PCs
- ▶ The complete guide to mapping and navigation with your handheld, including GPS satellite and moving maps
- ▶ Have keyboard, will travel. We put the Psion Series 5mx head-to-head with the latest Hewlett Packard Jornada 728
- ▶ Sound and vision. Video and audio playback on your PDA
- ▶ Voice control for your handheld. We look at the current state of play and some new technologies
- ▶ An introduction to GPRS—all you need to know about high speed 'always on' Internet connectivity for your handheld
- ▶ Living with ListPro. A tutorial/workshop for this flexible cross-platform list manager and project outliner
- ▶ Getting to grips with HanDBase—part 2

Plus all the regular features, including news, Hints & Tips, Q&A, Game ZONE, Worth a Read, On The Net and much more...